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THURSDAY, MAY 31ST, 2012

The Olympic torch lights up Bridgend!



Picture by
RANDELL JOHN.

ABOVE:
The Olympic torch came to Bridgend and the excitement was at fever pitch as the torchbearers waited their turn.
(See pages 6 and 7 for more photos).

The Bristol Channel Windfarm is scaled back

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE proposed 'Atlantic Array' windfarm in the Bristol Channel has been scaled down by almost one third.

The re-design also means that turbines will be further away from the Welsh coastline.

This week RWE npower renewables released its revised wind farm design, citing engineering studies and public opinion as the main factors in the change.

A company spokeswoman said: "This follows detailed analysis of the results of comprehensive environmental and engineering studies to date, together with the outcome of the consultation held with local communities along the South Wales coast last year."

Communities from Swansea to Porthcawl attended public exhibitions last year, and there will be more consultations in July and August about the revised plans.

Robert Thornhill, development manager for the Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm at RWE npower renewables said: "We have listened to the feedback received during our formal community consultation held during autumn 2011."

"After taking full consideration of environmental and engineering factors, and in response to the feedback from the public, we have revised the proposed offshore wind farm boundary and made alterations to the maximum number of turbines."

"The maximum number of turbines

for which we will apply for planning consent to build has been reduced from 417 to 278. The distance from the Welsh coast and Atlantic Array wind farm has increased from 16km to 22.5km at its closest point.

"The horizontal view of the wind farm from the closest point in South Wales has also been decreased by approximately 30 per cent."

"These revisions will mean any potential visual and environmental effects of the wind farm will be reduced."

He added: "Following requests by the public for a second round of informal consultation, we will be holding events along the south Wales coast in July and August to give the local communities an opportunity to find out more about the changes and to view photomontages which will show the revised wind farm design."

"The Atlantic Array project team will be at the exhibitions to answer any questions."

The public will be able, he said, to give further feedback at this stage. More information on these events and the dates of the consultation period will be advertised locally, and on the RWE npower renewables website, nearer the time.

The Porthcawl exhibition is scheduled for August 1, 12pm to 8pm, at the Grand Pavilion.

DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS SHINE!

THIS weekend will see people celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee across Bridgend and the Vale, as well as nationally, and Jubilee Beacons will be lit across the country on Monday, June 4, between 10.15pm and 10.30pm.

The following beacons will be lit in our area (the list is on the Queen's Jubilee website

and The GEM advises checking locally that events are going ahead as planned):
Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg
Rhyh Pointand, Porthcawl; Hutchins Point, Porthcawl; Prince of Wales, Kenfig; Bodringall Farm, Coychurch; Newcastle Hill, Bridgend; Cefn Cribwr; St Michael's & All Angels Church, Maesteg.

The Vale
Cliff Walk, Penarth; Flat Holm Island, Bristol Channel; Hill House Farm, St Mary Hill; Pontyclun; Sully Beach; Tair Croes, Ewenny; The Beacon, Heol Faen, Wick; The Old Beacon Site, Wick; Ty Fry Farm, Pendoylan; Victoria Park Barry; Y Graig, Llantrisant; Cowbridge, St Hilary Downs.

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FOSTER CARERS CHEER ON LOCAL SOCIAL WORKERS

SOCIAL workers from the fostering team at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) took part in the Race for Life event in Bridgend recently.

The staff members, who were part of a 2,000-plus turnout, completed the 5km course, while being cheered on by several of the authority's foster carers.

They managed to raise an impressive £250 for Cancer Research, as well as raising the profile of fostering.

Faced with a shortage of approximately 80 foster carers, and with an ageing population, it is important that the profile and awareness of fostering is promoted throughout the county borough to attract people with the skills to foster, particularly for teenage and sibling groups.



ABOVE: The social work team after the Race for Life.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "According to the Fostering Network, every six hours a child comes into care in Wales who will need a foster placement.

"The council is working hard to raise awareness of Bridgend Foster Care and we will continue to do so through events and advertising."

Clive Richards, a local authority foster carer, said: "Fostering is

so important; it gives children stability and loving surroundings. Foster children really benefit from the stability of a happy home, and helping them to reach their full potential is very rewarding."

The number of looked-after children in care across the UK is still on the rise with an increase of 17 per cent compared to 2008.

"Bridgend county borough recorded a six per cent increase over the last year alone. The Fostering Network estimates that at least 8,750 new foster families are needed in 2012 alone.

A BRIDGEND businessman has beaten stiff competition to make it through to the short list for this year's 'Leading Wales' awards.

Steve Dalton OBE, managing director at Sony UK Technology Centre, has been nominated in the 'real life entrepreneurial leadership (private sector)' category, supported by FSB Wales for his integral role at the technology firm in Pencoed.

Barbara Chidgey, spokesperson for the Leading Wales awards, said: "There is a lot of talk about the importance and impact of leadership in today's society; our role, however, is to uncover and celebrate real life examples of leadership that have touched people's lives.

"We've reached out to even more people across Wales this year and we've had a tremendous response in terms of both quantity and quality of nominations as illustrated by the largest number of finalists ever drawn up.

"Reading the many and inspirational nominations submitted has been an absolute privilege and extremely motivating."

Steve Dalton commented: "It is a privilege to be nominated as a finalist for the Real Life Entrepreneurial Leadership award this year.

"To be nominated by the people I work with and recognised for the hard work I have done; turning the factory in Pencoed, into a sustain-

able business model is a huge achievement and one that I am extremely proud of.

"I am pleased to say the site is now excelling in the current climate, with us manufacturing high-definition professional and broadcast cameras for world-wide markets, as well as being the only customer service centre in the UK.

"We have also begun working with start-up companies within the media, digital and business services sectors to share our knowledge on design and manufacturing – and ultimately to further develop new

businesses within these sectors and to help build the Welsh economy.

"I'm up against some tough competition in the category and I wish all of the nominees the very best of luck."

The winners were being announced today (Thursday) at a ceremony in the Hilton, Cardiff.

Others in line for awards included: Angela Hughes, Wales Air Ambulance; Roxanne Baldwin, Bridgend County Borough Council; Dr Charlotte Morgans, South Wales Police; Janetta Toleman Jones, Anheddau Cyf and Julie Winspear, Wales Ambulance Services NHS Trust.

Pencoed businessman is in the frame for 'Leading Wales' award

Chance to get free financial check-up – MP

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon is urging local residents to have a free health check from the Money Advice Service.

The free, independent service was established by Government and funded by a levy on the financial services industry.

It is available to everyone online at: www.mon.evadvice.org.uk – or you can call 0300 500 5000.

The MP commented: "This is a great tool to help people plan for the future, which is why I am urging everyone to spare a few minutes to complete the financial health check.

"It takes less than 10 minutes to complete, involves no paper work and provides an action plan suited to the individual's circumstances.

"These action plans include quick 'must dos' as well as clear financial priorities for the longer term – helping people both now and in the future.

"Whether constituents need online, face to face or telephone help with their finances, I would encourage them to make use of the Money Advice Service."

Getting in a spin to raise money for toddler Ellie

WHEN staff at Ynysawdre Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre heard about the 'Ellie's Goody 2 Feet' fundraising campaign they wanted to help, and being the active bunch that they are, decided on a 15-hour workout on spinning indoor cycling bikes!

Ellie (three) lives in The Garw. She has Spastic Diplegia, a form of Cerebral Palsy. Her family are trying to raise £40,000 to take her to America for a life-changing operation called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR).

A spokesperson said: "If the operation is successful, it will give Ellie the best chance of a longer mobile life.

"It will improve her walking, body positioning and increase her range of function."

The local community is invited to cheer on the four members of staff who will be taking it in turns to ride two spinning bikes, rotating every half hour, on Friday June 1 from 6.30am–10pm.

Martin Barron, from the centre said, "We are asking local people to pop in, not only to cheer us on and hopefully provide a welcome distraction from our sore legs and tender behinds, but to donate to such a worthy cause.

"And if we can do anything to help Ellie one day get on her bike, it will be well worth it!"

To find out more about how you can help Ellie, visit www.elliessgoody2feet.org.uk.

FOODBANK HAS FED 273 PEOPLE IN THE BOROUGH

THROUGHOUT April, Bridgend Foodbank fulfilled 130 vouchers, feeding 190 adults and 83 children across the county borough.

Now, almost 70 agencies have registered as voucher distributors, a spokesperson reports:

These are frontline professionals who may meet people in crisis in the course of their work and are able to assess their needs.

When the situation calls for it, they provide the client with one of the vouchers.

When the client brings the voucher to one of the Foodbanks, they are given enough food for themselves and their family for three days, giving the client some time to get through the crisis.

Bridgend Foodbank is very grateful for the continuous generosity that is being shown across the county borough, from individuals, community groups and businesses.

The variety of ways in which the work is supported enables the charity keep going.

Particular thanks goes

to Coity Village Association, who have nominated the Foodbank as their charity of the year.

This news comes at a good time as, at the end of this month, the Foodbank will hand over the reins as Sainsbury's Bridgend's charity of the year to another local cause.

The team at Sainsbury's can't be thanked enough for all that they have done this year. Food collection boxes will continue to remain in the store.

This month, the food items running low are: sugar, orange juice, biscuits and longlife milk.

Gerald Manners, operations manager, is leaving at the end of May. Gerald has been involved since the early days, and his hard work has enabled the Foodbank to grow and develop significantly in the borough.

There is no news as to who Gerald's successor might be, but with public support, the Foodbank will continue to provide services to local people who need them.

A READER'S VIEW

Origin of the torch relay?

FAR be it for me to rain on anyone's parade – I love to party as much, if not more so, than anyone else – but the blanket coverage of the Olympic torch progression fair takes the biscuit.

This ceremony was adopted by the Olympic movement at the suggestion of the Nazi Government in Germany, which loved

to stage torchlight processions.

So, along it came for the 1936 Berlin Olympics, and it has been adopted ever since.

It does, however, serve one useful purpose at the moment, in establishment circles – it diverts attention from the economic collapse of the Euro, and perhaps the entire EU edifices.

Christopher Short,

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 7)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
31 Thur	02.41	8.5	15.24	8.4
01 Fri	03.44	8.6	16.27	8.7
02 Sat	04.47	9.1	17.24	9.2
03 Sun	05.45	9.4	18.16	9.7
04 Mon	06.46	9.8	19.12	10.1
05 Tues	07.37	10.1	20.03	10.2
06 Wed	08.29	10.0	20.51	10.2
07 Thur	09.17	9.8	21.38	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Cat in the hat in Bridgend!

RIGHT: The cat in the hat is asking people to help support the Bridgend Cats Adoption Centre. FIND OUT HOW ON PAGE 8.



Summer fayre in Porthcawl

A SUMMER fete is being held on Saturday, June 9, at St Davids Church, Florence Street, Nottage, at 12.30pm.

There will be a variety of attractions and refreshments, with hot dogs, and strawberries and ice cream.

BRIDGEND QUIZ LEAGUE POSERS

HERE are this week's posers:

1. Meniere's disease affects which part of the body?

2. The band T'Pau took their name from a character in which television series?

3. Which Irish scum half was selected for the 2009 Lions but was injured prior to the tour and was unable to travel?

4. What term means the bending of light when it passes from one medium to another?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

1. Ear.
2. Star Trek.
3. Tomos O'Leary.
4. Refraction.

BAVO help

LOCAL job seekers can get free help and support at the Maesteg Work Club every Tuesday from 10am–2pm at the Media 3 centre based in Commercial Street, Maesteg.

Co-ordinated by BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations), they will have full use of computers, printers and the internet; have access to all the latest vacancies; get help with job searching; support with writing CVs and application forms; and also help to set up an email account and free refreshments.

For further details call 01656 810400 or email: bavo@bavo.org.uk

Farmers will teach children all about milk

THE farming group, Wales YFC, is to run educational workshops for schoolchildren at the 'Food for Thought' sustainable food conference for schools in Bridgend on June 28, which will be opened by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend.

During the workshop, which has the theme of 'milk', children will experience practical 'hands on' learning as they discover the working life of a dairy farm, find out how the natural life process of the cows

form the basis of the dairy industry, and the importance of good animal welfare practices.

They will also be able to follow the milk process story from farm to table.

Esther Foster, the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) co-ordinator for Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "I am delighted that Wales YFC is able to attend the 'Food for Thought' conference.

"They know exactly what it is like to live in rural areas, and many of the problems that our Welsh farmers face."

Students get a chance to work with top chefs!



PICTURES
by MIKE
WILCOCK



TEN lucky catering students recently had the chance to work with two renowned Michelin- starred chefs.

The students from Bridgend College had a close-up view of how Chris Gillard (St John) and Sian Wyn Owen (River Cafe), prepared for a fine dining experience, catering for 100 guests at Fommon Castle, in a fundraiser for the National Eisteddfod.

The manager of St John also trained them on how to pour and serve wine, lay the tables, and put through their paces serving.

Canapés and cocktails were prepared by Joe Rowson, head chef of Arboreal restaurant in Cowbridge.

The evening was co-hosted by the singer and actress Shân Cothi, and actor Stifyn Parri.

Guests were also entertained by Côr Dydd and DJ Andy Powell.

For the two star chefs, it was a return to the Vale, as both went to school in Cowbridge.

Sian Wyn Owen is now the head chef at River Café and Chris Gillard is head chef at St John at Smithfield, went to school in Cowbridge and worked their way through the various kitchens.

The River Cafe is a world famous eatery and has been a training

ground for many a chef, including Jamie Oliver.

Sian has worked at the River Café for the past 12 years and has been the head chef for seven. Previously, she worked at Sartoria in Bond Street, and was part of the team who set up and launched The Bluebird restaurant on the Kings Road.

The fifth floor restaurant at Harvey Nichols is another prestigious eatery that she joined after graduating in Human Nutrition from Kings College, University of London.

Chris Gillard has worked at St John restaurant for the past eight years.

This acclaimed restaurant is a regular fixture in both the Michelin Guide and the S Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants awards.

Chris is responsible for the twice-daily changing menu at St. John, and for the development of new dishes.

Cowbridge restaurant Arboreal provided a warm welcome for diners with cocktails and canapés, including: Bellinis, iced vodka cocktails and elderflower cordial, and fried cockles with lemon and sea salt, stuffed Gordal olives and toast-Maron almonds with smoked paprika.

At the end of the evening, the students were presented with certificates signed by the top chefs, and the Maitre D.



ABOVE: Shân
Cothi.



ANDREW TO CARRY PARALYMPIC FLAME THROUGH CARDIFF

PENCOED'S Andrew Burt (48) will achieve a lifetime goal this summer after being selected to carry the Paralympic Torch through Cardiff on August 27 as it tours the country.

As a youngster, Burt was a promising judoka, selected in the British Olympic squad in 1984, and looked destined to compete and hopefully challenge for medals at many Olympics to come.

But a succession of knee injuries culminated in an enforced amputation of his left leg in 2007 after he contracted septicemia.

Andrew was nominated to carry the torch through the Lloyds TSB public nomination campaign for his work as a coach at Pontarddulais Judo Club for the last 15 years, teaching children, both disabled and able-bodied, as well as those with behavioural problems.

He has also been actively involved in coaching the Welsh disabled team and has taken

them on many overseas trips, and his tireless work has seen him get his chance to shine on the big stage.

The former Pencoed Comprehensive School pupil said: "It's a fantastic feeling to find out that I will get the chance to carry the torch, words can't really describe how happy I am."

"I always wanted to be involved in the Olympics, and subsequently the Paralympics, so to get this opportunity is the culmination of a lifelong dream."

"All my friends and family are going to take the day off and the judo club are going to come down as well, so it should be a great celebration."

And he insists that this is far more than just a personal celebration, rather a chance for people to learn more about the good that sport can do in the lives of children, both disabled and able-bodied.

"It's fantastically rewarding work. To see the difference that sport can make in these kids' lives is just amazing and

carrying the torch is a great chance to spread that word about overcoming disabilities."

Lloyds TSB is bringing the excitement of the Games and Paralympic flame closer to you. Find out what we're doing in your community and who is carrying the flame at: lloydstsb.com/paralympicflame.

Porthcawl to host a Jubilee concert

CLASSICAL music with a difference comes to Porthcawl on Friday June 1, when Wales' chamber orchestra, The Welsh Sinfonia, comes to the Grand Pavilion to join in with the Jubilee celebrations.

An ensemble of 12 of the orchestra's leading string players, directed by Robin Stowell, will have played earlier at The Royal Mint in Llantrisant as part of their Jubilee festivities, and they come to Porthcawl with a programme of music from all parts of the British Isles.

Pieces by Karl Jenkins and Morfydd Owen will sit alongside Purcell and Elgar, Frank Bridge and a lively Scottish reel by William McComell. Add some Handel (British by adoption), and you have a wonderful light-hearted evening's entertainment to get the Jubilee Weekend off to a cracking start.

Tickets are £12/10 from the Grand Pavilion's Box Office on 01656 815995.

Council leader pays tribute

CAN I pass on my sincere thanks to the thousands of residents who turned out in such force for Saturday's Olympic torch relay?

This was a very difficult event for the London organising committee of the Olympic Games, the police and councils like ourselves to plan for, as it was unprecedented locally and the organisers did not know what to expect in terms of onlookers or even the weather. We were very fortunate with both!

Anyone who was there will have experienced the wonderful atmosphere and enthusiasm of the crowds, who patiently lined the streets of Nantymoel, Ogmores Vale, Bryncethin, Bridgend, Laleston and Pyle.

This was the borough at its best and I think those who witnessed this special occasion will remember it for many years to come. I certainly felt incredibly proud of the way our communities were represented.

Congratulations also to all those torchbearers from the borough who carried the torch with such pride. I know that for some onlookers the torch went by quite quickly, or their view was obscured by the crowds or by traffic in some areas where it was especially busy.

We will shortly be

announcing plans to display some of the actual torches carried through our borough in a special free local exhibition so I hope that anyone who missed out on seeing the relay for themselves or wants a second chance will join us to see the torches close up.

Thank you for helping to make our leg of the London 2012 Torch Relay so memorable. **Coun Mel Nott, Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council**

Beacon will burn for the Jubilee

BRIDGEND'S beacon brazier is set to burn brightly to mark the Diamond Jubilee on Monday, June 4.

The brazier, high on top of Newcastle Hill, will be one of 2,012 blazing beacons being lit across the UK to mark the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

Sited next to St Illtyd's Church in the conservation area, it will be visible to the whole town.

Firefighters have been approached to carry out the lighting ceremony at 10.15pm in the presence of Bridgend Town Mayor, Coun Roger Marsh.

Coun Marsh has also been visiting primary schools in the Bridgend town area, distributing a commemorative bone china mug to each pupil.

The keepsakes, which have a bilingual inscription, come courtesy of Bridgend Town Council.

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CADETS ALL FIRED UP FOR VISIT TO BRIGADE



Cadets from 2117 Kenfig Hill Squadron ATC

AIR Cadets from Porthcawl, Pencoed and Kenfig Hill recently enjoyed a visit to the fire section at MoD St Athan, where they were given a tour of a fire engine and a brief on how the equipment is used. Then it was down to the cadets to see if they could put together a hazchem shower.

Their reward was to test the shower, to confirm they had put it together correctly, and yes they had!

The cadets were shown how to fix up a hose to a fire hydrant and were split into two teams. Questions were asked on the fire brief they had been given earlier. If they got the answer right,

they were given pieces to assemble the hose and hydrant and the winning team were allowed to operate their setup.

The visit, although enjoyable, (and let's face it who doesn't want to look around a fire engine), also had a serious side as it forms a part of the cadet's syllabus covering health and safety.

Sgt Gould from Kenfig Hill Squadron, who arranged the visit, would like to thank Wing Warrant Officer Durman, Julian Smith, Sgt Adam Burman and CWO K Marke for their assistance in making the day a success.

LINDSAY THOMAS
Secretary, Civilian Committee

New exhibition in Grand Pavilion



ABOVE: Siobhan Grice (right) with Natalie Vernon, who organises art exhibitions in the Grand Pavilion.

AN art and photography exhibition is being staged in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

The exhibition space

Bridgend Bridge results

RESULTS for May 23: First, Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams, 62.08 per cent; second, David Bowen and David Crompton, 57.92 per cent; third, Norma and David Newman, 57.08 per cent.

in the Cafe Bar is being shared between local artist Siobhan Grice and photographer Peter Morgan.

Siobhan, who has an MA in fine art from UWIC, is displaying her paintings, and there are also photographs (taken by Peter Morgan) of various 'land art' projects that she has done on Coney Beach, Rest Bay and Sker.

Siobhan explained: "My work is influenced by the love of nature and the human form."

"I work intuitively with paint on canvas, and this reveals my inner world."

'Heroes' line up to support Ty Hafan!



Left to right: Rob Keedwell (Superman), David Houlton (Postman Pat), Christine Chandler (Ty Hafan) and Tony Morris (Batman).

STAFF at Bridgend-based Buy As You View donned their finest Batman, Superman and Spiderman costumes to present Ty Hafan children's hospice, with their latest cheque for £500, taking this year's fundraising for the hospice up to £1,000.

The company hosted events over six months to fundraise for the charity.

In addition to 'Superhero Friday', it has also held other 'dress down' days, produced a 2012 charity calendar and is planning to hold a 40-mile sponsored cycle ride in June, taking fundraisers from Rhondda to

Swansea in one afternoon.

Christine Chandler, Business and Community Fundraiser, at Ty Hafan, said: "We would like to give a very big thank you to everyone at Buy As You View for supporting us, especially to CEO, Graham Clarke, for agreeing to match fund the overall donation, which has made a real difference."

There are a number of signs warning about the dangers on the beach, and the red flag is always flying reminding people not to cross the river. Despite the warnings, people all too often get into difficulty at Ogmore-by-Sea.

Penybont Lifeguards have successfully raised funds to pay for a new slipway at the beach which is now complete. This meant there were more people on the beach, including many families with pushchairs and younger children.

Penybont lifeguard carries Olympic torch in the morning ...BEFORE SAVING GIRLS IN THE AFTERNOON!

PENYBONT lifeguard Craig Robinson had a Saturday to remember last weekend - after carrying the Olympic torch on its relay through Barry in the morning, he returned to his post in the afternoon at Ogmore-by-Sea, where he was called on to save two children in difficulty in the water.

Craig was nominated to carry the torch for his surf lifesaving work.

And it was those skills that came to the fore at Ogmore when he had to help the two girls, aged 10 and 11, from Newport, who were at the beach with their parents for the first time and were unaware of the dangerous current in the sea.

Despite the hot weather, the water temperature was cold and the strong off-shore wind made conditions treacherous for even the strongest swimmers.

Penybont Lifeguards were running their voluntary patrol service and had a number of incidents to deal with through the day.

Craig, the patrol captain, explained what happened: "We saw two girls caught in the rip current and they couldn't get back to shore. I paddled out to them with a rescue board and brought them safely back to the beach."

"They were panicking, frightened and worried, as to what could have happened. Both were very lucky on this occasion."

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Penybont Lifeguards have successfully raised funds to pay for a new slipway at the beach which is now complete. This meant there were more people on the beach, including many families with pushchairs and younger children.

There are always hazards to be aware of on the beach and in the sea,



Lifeguard Craig Robinson enjoys his moment in the spotlight.

and visitors should listen to advice given by the lifeguards.

A number of children were using inflatable toys in the sea and river on Saturday.

Despite the lifeguards warning them of the dangers, some people continued to use them.

Mark Evans, senior patrol member, told The GEM: "Our lifeguards, even our junior members, are well-trained and people should listen to their advice."

"Inflatables are really dangerous and people shouldn't use them at Ogmore. If people do get into trouble they should stick their hand in the air and shout for help."

But it wasn't all danger and tension for Craig on Saturday, a he had just hours before the rescue been carrying the Olympic torch through Barry as part of its tour of the UK.

He said of the experience: "To be part of something so unique was incredible."

"I was quite humbled to be with other torchbearers who have been through a lot and given so much to society. I'm just a volunteer lifeguard, who loves the work and being able to help people is great."

"It was a really special day running with the torch in the morning, then doing my job in the afternoon, which is how I came to be a torchbearer in the first place."

Penybont lifeguards urge everyone who visits a beach to look out for the safety signs, listen to lifeguards' advice and, if you see someone in difficulty, immediately tell a lifeguard, or call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

NEV
WHITE

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303



Jubilee
JUBILEE celebrations for Llangan School take place as follows: May 30, nursery and reception class assembly; May 31, Jubilee disco takes place at the school; June 1, a 'street party' in the school.

Llanfest 2010
THE Llangan and St Mary Hill village festival takes place on June 16. It includes the Battle of Llangan - as the Sealed Knot Society evokes the English Civil War.

There will be music from The Rossers, Orca, Thrown to the Wolves, Chrisalys, Jamie Hill and many more acts, plus 30 stalls and attractions. These include craft stalls, bouncy castle, a clown, face painting, children's rides.

A special addition this year will be the Llangan School Choir. The venue for the festival this year will be Heol Lidiard, St Mary Hill, which is in close proximity to the former Fferm Goch site. Entrance fee £2.

Reminder
THE St Mary Hill church barbecue will take place on June 4 at 7pm; the cost will be £7 and it will be situated on St Mary Hill.

The bonfire will be lit at 10pm. I believe this will coincide with the lighting of the fire on Cowbridge Common at approximately the same time.

Hogoroc raised the roof for the Eisteddfod!
MORE than 150 guests enjoyed a great night

out at the Hogoroc evening on Pen-llin Court Farm last week, which raised more than £5,500 towards this summer's National Eisteddfod at Llandow.

The evening started with a hog roast in the barn, donated by Jo and John Homfray.

Alun Cairns MP helped the night along by running a hugely successful auction, which included paintings by Wilf and Gwyn Roberts, and signed memorabilia from the Cardiff and Swansea City football teams.

By the end of the night, everyone was up and dancing to music provided by Slipped Discs.

The evening was organised by the Llangan, Pen-llin, St Mary Hill and Treoes Eisteddfod Appeal Committee and the money raised will help the group work towards their fundraising target.

Thank you to everyone involved in preparing for and donating towards the evening.

The next event is the Ascot Ladies Day at the Star Inn, Treoes on Thursday, June 21.

For £15 you can join us for a two course meal, a glass of Pimms and have a flutter on the horses if you like.

Don't forget your hats - as there'll be a prize for the best one! Tickets on 01656 861933 or marycran-don@btinternet.com.

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AS FIRM KEEPS ITS PROMISE...

Premier applauds Bridgend apprentice initiative

Prime Minister David Cameron has praised a Bridgend company for taking on its first apprentice – and so honouring a promise made at Number 10 on St David's Day.

The pledge was made by Brian Stokes, Managing Director of ITCS, one of the UK's top IT support companies, after the PM singled him out for a chat.

ITCS is one of the recognised Wales Fast 50 companies, so Mr Stokes was ready with advice at the star-studded reception, full of Welsh TV personalities, rugby stars, charities, representatives from the emergency services and other leading businessmen.

Brian said: "He asked me what I thought the Government was doing right or could be doing better, so I said that I was pleased to see the Government pledge of committing additional investment to apprenticeships.

"We see a lot of engineers who leave college and cannot get a job in their chosen field, are burdened with a lot of debt, and have no industry experience. I explained that an apprenticeship is more focused, more hands on, and would give us a better engineer at the end of it.

"We had quite a chat and I told him we'd be keen to start doing apprenticeships and working closely with the local schools and colleges. I really felt that he took the point and welcomed my feedback."

Mr Cameron said of Brian's enthusiasm for apprenticeships: "They are a key part of our plans to grow our economy, giving young people the chance to learn a trade and helping to build the highly-skilled workforce that our businesses need. They are good for people who want to get ahead,



ABOVE: Brian Stokes of ITCS meets the Prime Minister, David Cameron.

good for business and good for the country. "It's great news that ITCS are now taking on their first apprentice and I hope they will inspire more companies to do the same. I wish ITCS and their new apprentice all the best for the future."

Brian Stokes added that ITCS has always worked closely with Bridgend College and is now helping to trial a new scheme. It involves students working with outside companies for one day a week over 16 weeks.

OPTICIANS JOIN RACE FOR LIFE



Mairwen Chess, Hannah Davies and Nic Edwards show off their race medals.

STAFF at a Bridgend opticians have raised nearly £350 in the battle against cancer, by taking part in the local 5k Race for Life on Sunday May 20.

Specsavers store manager Nic Edwards and her colleagues Hannah Davies and Mairwen Chess took part in the race, which forms part of the UK's largest women-only fundraising event.

Nic said: "The three of us were all really keen to get involved in this event.

"It's such a worthy charity and sadly something that affects far too many people we know and love.

"We would like to thank everybody – family, friends, colleagues and customers – who sponsored us for the event, and we're delighted to have raised so much money for a vital cause."

To donate any further money for Race for Life, call in to the Specsavers store on Adare Street, Bridgend.

St David's pupils outward bound in Storey Arms!



LAST week, year-6 children at St David's Church in Wales Primary School had a fantastic week away at the Storey Arms outdoor education centre in the Brecon Beacons.

They had an action-packed week filled with a variety of exciting adventurous activities.

During the day, they took part in canoeing, caving and gorge walking; during the evening they went on a string trail through the forest,

used a climbing tower and undertook a variety of team building tasks.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to have lots of adventures in many beautiful surroundings.

Not only did they have the chance to develop their physical skills, but also their social and emotional skills too.

All the children had a great experience that they will remember for a long time.

LOUISE ROSSER



ABOVE: Year-6 pupils at St David's Primary School underwent physical and team-building exercises at Storey Arms.

Services disrupted after cows hit on line

THERE were delays to train journeys between Bridgend and Cardiff last Thursday (May 24) when a passenger train hit five cows on a crossing at the village of St George's.

Nobody on the train was hurt, but Network Rail confirmed that all the cattle were casualties. A spokesman told The GEM: "The gates were left open on a user-worked crossing which is a private crossing owned by somebody like a local farmer. The gates had to be secured.

"Five cows were hit, four were killed instantly and one, unfortunately, had to be put down later.

"There was a block on the line, but we

were able to move everything eventually."

Ben Davies, press officer for Arriva Trains Wales, confirmed the incident and praised the driver for continuing to Cardiff.

He told The GEM: "There was an unfortunate incident where cattle got on the line.

"The train driver was shaken but uninjured, and professionally brought the train into Cardiff. Nobody on board was hurt.

"The incident happened at 16:45 and it wasn't until 19:30 that full service was restored.

"We were lucky we also had the district line to go around the incident."

After 19:30 services returned to normal.

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Vimto	2 ltr £1 each
Coke/Diet Zero	Buy 2 get 1 free

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Around Bridgend county borough with the Olympic torchbearers on a very special day



PERHAPS the most crowded point when the Olympic torch visited Bridgend was in the town centre on Derwen Street.

It was there that Heidi Willis, pictured left, waiting for her torch to be lit, ran the first leg in Bridgend town.

The flame then travelled along Nolton Street, right onto Cowbridge Road, and then left along Park Street to Bryntirion, and then Laleston.

From there it was a quick motorised dash to greet the waiting crowds at Pyle.



ABOVE: There were large crowds at Pyle, waiting for the torch.



ABOVE: There was a comical moment at Pyle when a wedding cortege were caught up in the torch procession.



ABOVE: Danielle Price carried the torch through Pyle.



ABOVE: Excited crowds at Pyle.

PHOTOGRAPHS ON THIS PAGE

Photos marked 'GE' are by Glyn Evans (07791 228684). e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk

Photos marked 'KEM' are by Keith E Morgan (01656 7881150).

Photos marked 'FS' are by Frank Shipton (07790 882925). e-mail frankshipton@mac.com



It's the wedding party again!



ABOVE: An excited crowd at Park Street, Bridgend.



ABOVE: Heidi Wilson sets off along Derwen Road in Bridgend.

CARRYING THE OLYMPIC FLAME ALONG THE CROWDED STREETS OF BRIDGEND

THE Olympic flame passed through Bridgend amid scenes of great excitement last Saturday (May 26).

Some vantage points were packed six or seven deep as people tried to get a glimpse of the iconic moment.

GEM photographers were out and about around the borough, capturing key images from the day when the town welcomed the torchbearers who had been given a once-in-a-lifetime moment.

PHOTOGRAPHS ON THIS PAGE

Photos marked 'RJ' are by
Randell John (01656 662324).
(www.randelljohnphotography.com)

Photos marked 'GE' are by
Glyn Evans (07791 228684).
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk

BELOW:

Jak Powles with the Olympic flame



GE



GE



GE

BELOW: The handover, or 'kiss' as the organisers term it, near Park Street.



GE



RJ



GE



GE



GE



RJ



GE



GE

Dress as a cat and set a new world record



Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012
Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk

CAT lovers are invited to don cat costumes and join the charity's Bridgend Adoption Centre in June to set a new record for the largest gathering of people dressed as cats.

The centre is asking people to put on those fluffy cat ears, paws and tails and join the 'Catathon' in Adare Street, Bridgend, on Saturday, June 30, in which the charity will try to beat the current world record of 800 people.

The afternoon kicks off with a 'moggytastic' cat competition to judge



Photographs by
MANDY THOMAS
(www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)

the best costume at 12.30pm. The count for the Guinness World Record will begin at 2pm, and results will be announced at 3pm.

Participants can dress up as any member of the feline family including lions, tigers and cartoon cats! Note - you must wear a full bodied costume and be clearly

recognisable as your chosen animal.

Sue Dobbs, manager of the Bridgend Adoption Centre, said: "As a centre that is full up with unwanted cats, we are always looking for ways to raise awareness and find them homes."

"We had the idea of trying to beat a world record after we saw a similar attempt involving people dressed as elves. The chance to set a world record doesn't come along every day, so it's a great opportunity to make a bit of history and have a fun day out."

Even if more than 800 people are attracted, it's still just a fraction of the 6,200 unwanted cats being looked after by Cats Protection that need new homes.

For further information about the Catathon visit the website www.bridgend.cats.org.uk, or to adopt a cat call 01656 724396.



YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



COMMUNITY NEWS from
KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Golf day

IF you enjoy a round of golf why not sign up for the annual charity golf day being held by KPC, the charity for young people, at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl, on Friday, June 22.

Team entry for four players costs £160, which includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet lunch following the golf.

KPC are also seeking sponsorship for the raffle and auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole.

This is a good opportunity to enjoy a day's golf with a great bunch of people and support a local charity at the same time.

For entry forms and further details, contact Alison Mawby on 01656 749219/745399, or email: kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Cancer care

'TOUCHED by Cancer' is a registered charity set up two years ago by Bridgend borough councillor, Megan Butcher and Douglas (Lopper) Wilson (of gambo race fame) to support organisations dealing with the care of cancer sufferers.

Due to the enormous amount of time and effort put in by these two people and their army of helpers during the past two years, this new charity has gone from strength-to-strength raising a total of £15,000.

To find out more about the work and future events planned by the group, contact Megan on 01656 740451, or Lopper on 07828 140109.

Festival week

DUE to unforeseen circumstances, the Horse Race Night which was to be held in the Kenfig Hill Rugby Club on Friday, June 22, has had to be cancelled and 'Stars in their Eyes' will now be held in Pyle Rugby Club on Sunday, June 17.

However, all other events for the week leading up to the fun day are going ahead as planned. There has been positive reaction to this planned week, with a lot of the events being a sell out.

Such was the clamour for tickets to 'Showtime at the Talbot' starring comedienne, Mandy Starr on Tuesday, June 19 at 7pm, it could have sold many times over.

Llys Ton

THE Porthcawl Ukulele Band gave the residents of Llys Ton in Kenfig Hill a wonderful evening of entertainment on Wednesday, May 23.

They thoroughly enjoyed themselves singing and dancing along to a variety of music and felt that the band really excelled in their talent and audience participation techniques.

The residents would like to pass on their sincere thanks to them for a most entertaining evening, and to Annette and Lynette, who helped out with refreshments.

Roll call

MANY congratulations to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing staff at the school during the past two weeks:

Elva Vos de Mooy and Shakur Gough - class 1; Ieuan Everett and Ffion Clark - class 2; Grace Griffiths and Cai Williams - class 3; Jack Davies and Georgia Coleman - class 4; Todd Hind and Rhys Davies - class 5; Megan Stevens and Alex Moodie - class 6; Callum Jenkins and Connor Farnham - class 7. The headteacher's award went to Kaisha Hughes and Lowri Thomas and Lowri Powis.

The school road safety team of Lowri Thomas, Charlotte Roberts, Ben Evans and Liam Evans took part in the county finals, held in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

They all worked very hard on the competition and were in second place going into the last round. It was unfortunate that they had a disaster in the last round and finished sixth.

Well done to them and to Mrs Jones for coaching them and taking them to the event.

Guided Reading Sponsorship: Mr Goldsworthy would like to give a big thank you to everyone for their response to the event and for all the hard work which has been outstanding; £2,136.51 has been collected. Class 3 achieved the most money and the pupil who raised the most sponsorship was Cai Williams. Well done to him!

Pupil achievements: Two of the boys from the school have done particularly well in rugby and cricket. Phillip Burnell finally played rugby for west Wales, after a number of postponements mainly due to severe weather conditions.

He has now received his cap and jersey and everyone at the school is proud that another of their pupils has gone on to represent Wales.

Kyle Williams is also doing extremely well at cricket and is currently playing for West Glamorgan.

His bowling has been excellent and it is hoped

that his experience will help the school team this year.

The school will be holding Jubilee celebrations similar to the ones held for last year's royal wedding on Friday, June 1. There will be activities in the yard and on the field with bunting and music.

The school menu will be a special garden party menu and there will be drinks and lollies for the children.

Wellbeing

centres ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on June 6: Arts and crafts from 2pm-4pm; reading group from 3pm-4pm; social afternoon from 1pm-5pm.

Diamond Jubilee praise will take place in St James' Church Hall, Pyle at 4pm on Sunday, June 10. Everyone is welcome to join in. There will be videos of great days and hymns.

Council AGM

The AGM of Pyle Community Council was held on May 23. All the recently elected councillors, Geriant Brown, Gina Hooper, Pauline James, Allan John, Kay John, Andrea Jones, Beverley Jones, Michael Kearn and Eileen Peakman, along with clerk to the council, were present.

Giving her outgoing address, the chair, Coun Kay John said that she was pleased with the achievements of the last year - in particular with the progress and plans for the Heathbridge Miners' Square and also with the adoption of the principle of formulating a five-year plan for revitalising communities.

She then paid tribute to the last council for a year with little controversy. Following this, the election of chair, vice-chair and sub-committee members was held.

Chair - Kay John, vice-chair - Michael Kearn. Sub committee members: Planning - Couns Gina Hooper, Andrea Jones and Geriant Brown. Finance - Couns Pauline James, Allan John and Eileen Peakman. Employment - Couns Pauline James, Beverley Jones and Michael Kearn. Senior citizens - Couns Kay John and Allan John. Youth - Couns Beverley Jones and Geriant Brown. Highways -



ABOVE: Cheryl smiling at the firefighters. (See story below!)

Couns Allan John and Andrea Jones. Footpaths and open spaces - Couns Allan John, Geriant and Michael Kearn. Remembrance Day - Couns Pauline James and Eileen Peakman. Margam opencast - Couns Allan John, Kay John and Beverley Jones. Heathbridge Miners' Square - Couns Allan John, Andrea Jones and Michael Kearn.

Nominations of representatives to outside bodies were: One Voice Wales - Coun Eileen Peakman. Schools: Mynydd Cynffig Junior School - Coun Gina Hooper. Mynydd Cynffig Cynffig Infants School - Coun Kay John. Pyle Primary School - Coun Eileen Peakman. BCBC Town and Country Forum - Coun Michael Kearn. Kenfig Corporation Trust - Coun Pauline James. Festival Week and Fun Day - Coun Gina Hooper. The final appointment was Jeff Calne as auditor.

Kenfig Hill Choir's busy schedule
KENFIG Hill and District Male Voice Choir are facing a busy schedule during the next few months. Having started the summer in April with a concert in aid of the Newbury Samaritans at the Arlington Arts Centre in Newbury, they spent the week May 13-20 recording their new CD at studios in the Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

They were joined by Crescendo Youth Choir and Da Capo Children's Choir, their two junior choirs, who recorded tracks to be included on the CD.

This Saturday, June 2, they will be at the Millennium Stadium entertaining the crowds before the Wales v Barbarians game.

A week later they have back-to-back concerts in Sheffield on June 8 in aid of the Parkinsons' Support Group, and in Doncaster Minster on June 9, when they will sing with the Shirebrook Brass Band in concert for the Minster Restoration Fund.

On their return, the choir will be turning their attention to preparing for their annual concert in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on July 14, but not before singing in Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill, on June 16 to mark the start of the Pyle and Kenfig Hill Community Festival week. To finish off the summer, they will return to Bradford on August 4 for a concert in Bradford Cathedral before entertaining the crowds at the Odsall Stadium before the Bradford Bulls Rugby League game. Everybody is agreed that the choir deserves a well earned rest after all this travelling.

Not really sunny, but...

WITH the price of petrol and food going up, the loss of jobs, famine abroad, soldiers losing their lives, doom and gloom is constantly what you read or hear about on the news these days, so I would like to end this week with some local news that hopefully will put a smile on your face.

With her permission, I would like to tell you about well-known local personality, Cheryl Butcher, who had a harrowing experience last weekend when she was trapped in the lift at the Talbot Community Centre.

Myself as chair of the Talbot and Gina Hooper, the centre's chef, were unable to assist as we were rendered helpless with fits of laughter, as was her father, Ernie Lane, when I phoned to pass him a message and her son Steven when he arrived to meet his mother. Husband Don also struggled to keep a straight face.

The company who service the lift could not get there for at least one and a half hours so eventually we called the local fire brigade (the picture shows her delight on seeing the fire-fighters arrive). On seeing it was Cheryl, who they all know well, they took several minutes to compose themselves before releasing her, at which point we all had to run for our lives.

Happily, Cheryl saw the funny side and thanked everyone for getting her out. It was a bit like 'You've Been Framed' on TV, when everyone laughs at someone else's misfortune; however, it was all very light hearted.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hospital Friends

MAESTEG Hospital has been continuously upgraded since 1995 and the services it provides include a day hospital, rehabilitation, outpatient care, and inpatient care, to 26,000 people living in the Maesteg and Llynfi valley.

In January 2004 a new two floored extension was added to provide dental care, podiatry, speech and language therapy, baby clinic, hearing aid clinic and orthopaedic clinics. The extension also provides a new filing room for health records. The Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) has accommodation on the first floor with offices, consulting rooms, a treatment room and a group therapy room.

The League of Friends this year celebrates its golden jubilee of organising a fete to raise funds for the hospital, which this year is being held in the grounds of the Celtic Club, Garth, Maesteg, on June 20.

It will have numerous stalls and roundabouts – in fact everything to provide fun for the family. It is due to start at 1pm; entry is £1 for adults and children are admitted free.

On June 22, the Friends have organised a concert at the Celtic Club at 7.30pm, featuring two Maesteg choirs – the Gleemen and Harmony. Tickets cost £4, and are available from the hospital, Maesteg library, or Maria's Café in Commercial Street.

The League of Friends have worked tirelessly for 50 years to raise funds and the local hospital needs the support of local residents.

Tynyrheol School

TYNYRHEOL primary school pupils at Llangeinor took part in the Bridgend primary schools cross country event at Pencoed Comprehensive School on May 19.

The team was: Amber Croale, Ioan Davies, Ffion Deere, Kai Lewis, Rhodri O'Brien, Jake Whitfield and Tyler Williams.

The final cross country for the season will take place in Ynysawdre on Saturday, June 23.

Each term, the Friends of the school donate books to the child in each class whose reading levels has most

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



improved during the term:

Class 1 – Lewis Matthews received *Grandma's Magical Storybook*; Class 2 – Jasmine McCann received the *First Children's Encyclopaedia*; Class 3 – Faith Rose received the *Children's Illustrated Internet Linked Encyclopaedia*.

The children received the books at the school assembly on May 29. The Head thanks the PTA and everyone who supported the recent art exhibition, which raised £105 towards school funds.

Danger warning
THE Ogmere Vale Primary School head-teacher is again reminding parents that they should not drive their cars onto the school grounds between 8.15am to 5pm.

It is causing considerable congestion and is a safety hazard to pupils who walk to school.

On June 15, the school restaurant will be serving an Italian-themed lunch to which all parents are invited to join their children, at a nominal cost of £3.35 per parent.

On June 21, the school will be holding its sports day for years 1-6 based on the Olympics; and the children, instead of being placed in houses, will represent six countries – USA, Great Britain, Jamaica, Australia, Russia and China.

Sports day for the nursery and reception classes will be held on June 19, with the nursery starting off between 10am to 11am, followed by reception at 11.15am to 12.15pm.

WI meeting
PEN-Y-FAI Women's Institute, which is celebrating its 27th anniversary, had a wonderful turnout of 44 members, who also debated the resolution to be put before the General Council.

Adele Hancock gave the results of the recent Glamorgan Federation

meeting at which she represented the institute, telling the members that on March 20, the federation had celebrated its 90th anniversary.

This year, the federation will be concentrating its efforts on recruitment.

The federation also requested a donation of £25, so that it could carry out maintenance on part of the building.

The speaker was S4C's Lowri Morgan from Gowerston, who spoke of her dive to the wreck of Titanic.

Lowri showed a DVD and also spoke of experiences in extreme marathons. In the jungle marathon in the Amazon, of 150 top runners, only 50 finished and Lowri was in the top 10.

She then entered the 6633 Arctic ultra marathon, a 350-mile endurance race in eight days. Lowri was the only one to finish and she took 174 hours 8 minutes to pull 50lbs of equipment along the route.

Angela Smith reminded the members of forthcoming events which included the Link groups' night out in Pyle Church Hall on June 8 for £3; a jewellery making course at Federation House on June 25, and a Diamond Jubilee celebration lunch at Cornelly community centre on June 27.

There is also a proposed trip to the newly-renovated Dewstow Gardens on July 23.

Angela collected names of members who would like to see the show *42nd Street* at the New Theatre, Cardiff.

Chris Phillips then put this year's resolution to the members, which is calling on the Government to increase investment in the training, employment and retention of midwives in Wales to ensure services are adequately resourced and able to deliver a high standard of care.

This was enthusiastically debated by the 44 members present and the motion was carried unanimously; the votes will now be taken to the annual general meeting in the Royal Albert Hall in London, when the decision to start lobbying Parliament will be made.

There was a special raffle for a weekend away at the WI-financed Denman College, which was won by Beryl Nicholas and Margaret Phillips.

New members and

visitors are welcome at meetings. The next meeting takes place on June 18 at 7pm in Pen-y-Fai C of E primary school hall.

Bible Church, Aberkenfig
LAST Friday, I attended a charity concert at the church to raise money for Velindre Hospital.

Taking part were Brackla Community Chorus, Pencoed Silver Band and the flute quartet 'Champagne Flutes'.

The first thing I must comment on was the amazing Gillian Ridout, who was the musical director, choir conductor, percussionist with the band, and compère for the evening!

Peter Davies, the conductor of the band, also deserves a mention; he had only just come out of hospital after a heart attack but was determined to be part of the concert.

The concert started with the band playing 'Le Reve Passe', a French military march with Gillian on the drums; then came Welsh folk song 'David of the White Rock' by magnificent soloist Philip Loveday on the euphonium and Gillian on the xylophone, plus Cole Porter's 'Anything Goes'.

The choir provided a contrast with Gareth Waite on the piano and Gillian Ridout conducting with the hit from Lionel Bart's musical *Oliver* 'Who will buy?' followed by an Elizabethan Serenade.

The Champagne Flutes, who consisted of Sheila Adams, Vanessa Bryant, Karen Hynad and Lynda Jeffery, changed the mood again with Jack Jordan's 'Little Red Monkey', Stephen Foster's 'Beautiful Dreamer' and Henry Purcell's 'Sound the trumpet'.

The choir then returned with a medley from *Phantom of the Opera* and the band followed, Denise Hughes playing a solo part on cornet.

Next, the band struck up with Coronation March from the opera *Le Prophete* by Giacomo Meyerbeer.

The band started the second half with an arrangement by A Fernie of the music of Jimmy Webb's song 'MacArthur Park', and then there was a brilliant solo part on the flugel horn by Marcus Bridgeman of 'Can't help loving dat man of mine.'

The choir then returned with the song 'My heart will go on' from the film *Titanic*, with a haunting solo on the flute by Vanessa Bryant, accompanied by Gareth Waite.

The choir sang a song from the Baroque era and the Champagne Flutes then completed the concert with one more rendition by each.

With more donations promised, the concert raised the sum of £625.

Blackmill Bash

THIS is the title of an event to help parents alleviate the boredom of their children during the Whitsun half term holiday on June 6 between 12.30pm-4pm at the Sheepsales site, Blackmill square, Blackmill.

There is a bike pump track at 12.30pm which has been organised by the 'Bad Bikes' youth organisation, a mobile climbing wall, face painting and other activities.

Evanstown Extravaganza
ONCE again, Communities First has produced an event to help parents alleviate the boredom of their children during the Whitsun half term holiday.

On June 7 at Abercerrid Primary School sports hall from 1pm-4pm, activities include a mobile climbing wall, running demonstrations, infant's bouncy castle, rodeo bull and face painting etc.

Bridgend Male choir's latest triumph is in Swansea

BRIDGEND Male Choir's latest concert was given on May 25 at All Saints Church, Oystermouth, close to the heartland of great Welsh choirs such as Morriston Orpheus and Pontarddulais.

It can be fairly said that the Bridgend boys gave a first-class performance which wowed the appreciative and knowledgeable audience on an evening to mark the centenary year of the Swansea Bowling Club.

The choir's varied programme, ranging from 'Llanfair' to 'Bring Him Home', and 'En Route' to 'Hava Nagilah', demonstrated their control in many types of music.

Their performance was greatly enhanced by the direction of Rhiannon Williams-Hale in only her fourth concert in charge of the choir, as she conducted with the assurance of a

Heronbridge School opens its new garden for a public viewing

HERONSBRIDGE special school is opening for the first time for the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday, June 24.

The pupils and staff of this school, which caters for pupils with disabilities, have put together a lively and entertaining and productive garden full of herbs, fruit and vegetables.

They love their flowers too, and these peep through the prolific foodstuffs. Their garden is in several areas throughout the school grounds and includes a bottle greenhouse, wormery, free range chickens, bee hive, and formal rose garden.

The garden is used constantly in the good weather by the pupils and staff for teaching, and the children take turns to collect eggs and care for their chickens.

In fact, the eggs and all produce are either used in the school kitchen by staff and pupils, or taken home by the children.

Other highlights include a secret sensory garden tucked away between classrooms, where pupils can explore their senses, and an impressive willow tunnel.

The majority of plants used are grown from seed or cuttings,



ABOVE: Pupils in the new garden.

making the garden self sustaining. The school also has a close relationship with schools in Botswana and Tanzania, and this is reflected in the garden.

They have grown African plants such as gazanias, and built a fascinating African Keyhole Garden, designed to grow food using water as efficiently as possible, based on gardens seen in their partner schools.

A new eco lodge will be completed in time

for the opening. All in all, this garden is a triumph for the pupils and staff led by Allison Rowlands and Anthea Guthrie.

Anthea, a four-time gold medal winner at RHS garden shows, will also be giving a special talk called 'Behind the Scenes at Chelsea' at 2pm. Home made cakes will also be on sale.

The admission fee is £3, and the garden is open between 12 and 4pm.

SB

MP warns jobless numbers mask true state of economy

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has warned the Government to avoid complacency over recent unemployment figures.

While David Cameron described a small fall in the number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants as "welcome news", Ms Moon says his Government is failing to address longer-term trends of unemployment, redundancy, part-time jobs and regional disparity.

The number of people claiming JSA in Bridgend has increased by 266 in the last year. Youth unemployment in particular has risen dramatically.

National trends have also shown that an increase in total jobs in the economy has come as a result of part-time work replacing full-time positions.

Ms Moon said: "These figures make the Government's priorities startlingly clear. While George Osborne cuts tax for the richest earners, youth unemployment in Bridgend has increased

1,300 per cent.

"These young people are bearing the brunt of a Government that cannot look beyond the south east. There, total employment is up by 35,000. Here in Wales, it is down by 25,000.

"It must be said that the figures do not give much cause for optimism in the near future. There are almost 50 per cent more people being made redundant than this time one year ago, and the number of new vacancies is also falling.

"The Government's austerity has dragged us back into recession, performing even worse than the EU economy which Ministers like to blame.

"They wanted a recovery led by the private sector, but this has failed to replace 45,000 of the public jobs lost. They wanted to reduce the deficit, but have to borrow more than ever to pay JSA to an extra 100,000 people.

"It is clear that the Coalition must heed these warning signs and change course before the damage to the British economy is irreparable."


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Off to the West Bank

QUAKER Jane Harries, a Bridgend mother of three, is spending 12 weeks in the West Bank, "monitoring human rights abuses, and supporting those working for peace."

She is volunteering with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), an initiative of the World Council of Churches.

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TEAM FROM ACT TAKES HOME THE TOP PRIZE!

YOUNG people from Bridgend are celebrating – after winning the prestigious Lloyds TSB Money for Life grand final in London.

After a close battle against hopefuls from across the UK, the team finally brought home the top prize, after winning over an influential judging panel with 'Don't Buy Posh, Save Your Dosh', an innovative project designed to help them and their peers improve their money management skills.

The team of six 16 to 19-year-olds from ACT (Associated Community Training) set up the project after securing a £500 grant from the Money for Life Challenge earlier this year.

They used the money to transform their common room into a 'Value Cafe', where people could learn about how to save cash on their weekly shop simply by swapping from branded to value products.

The learners proved to their peers that they could save as much as £30 a week on a typical grocery shop just



ABOVE: The youngsters from Bridgend celebrate their victory.

by choosing non-branded items, and they even held tasting sessions to put their point to the test.

The judging panel was made up of Matt Young, Corporate Affairs Director for Lloyds Banking Group; Emma Thomas, Chief Executive of Youth Net; Hiran Adhia, Creative Director and Co-founder of We Do Ideas; Wendy Alcock from Money Saving Expert; and Irfan Zaman from the National Union of Students.

Shannon Mears (16) who was involved in the project, said: "I'm amazed to find that I have learnt so many new skills and my mum is pleased that I

have shown her how to save on our weekly shopping bill!"

Andrew Cooksley, Managing Director of ACT Training, Wales' Largest Training Provider, said: "We are very proud of our learners for achieving national recognition and demonstrating the importance of managing money from a young age."

"Using their creativity and hard work, the team were really able to engage with their fellow learners and get them to take a more cost effective approach to buying food."

"It has been a life changing experience, the distance they have travelled to pull it off has been nothing short of outstanding."

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OBITUARY

Mrs Iris Groom, 1926-2012



IRIS GROOM.

A SERVICE of thanksgiving for the late Mrs Iris Groom, took place at St Mary Hill Church, on Thursday, May 24.

St Mary's Church was full to capacity with neighbours, friends and family, for the funeral of a much-loved lady, who through her life had worked tirelessly for the

underprivileged in society.

Her nursing career began as a teenager and eventually took her to Canada, where she continued caring for others.

Iris was a devout Christian and on many occasions, was asked to conduct a service at Saron Chapel, in the village of Treoes.

As she was so well known, the services would be very well attended.

For many years, Iris may be made to the Sandville Foundation, Sandville Homes in Porthcawl and spent

many years in the St John's Ambulance service.

The service at St Mary's and later at the Coychurch Crematorium were conducted by the Rector, Rev Canon Val Hamer, and Rev Canon Peter Raikes.

Our thoughts at this unhappy time are with Iris's son Ron, daughter Val, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter Francester.

Donations, if desired, may be made to the Sandville Foundation, Sandville Homes in Porthcawl and spent

DOUG HUMPHREY, a World War 2 veteran from Barry, recently celebrated his 90th birthday in hospital, surrounded by nursing staff and balloons

He joined the RAF in 1941 until his demob as a corporal in 1946.

He spent much of his time in the Western Desert, as a motor transport driver (MTD).

Much to his dismay, his selection midway through the campaign, for Lancaster aircrew training as a 'Tail End Charlie' (rear turret gunner) was cut short, as his skills as an MTD

became more vital in the war efforts at that time.

Doug's small stature was well suited to the cramped conditions in the Lancaster Bombers' lonely rear gun turret position.

As the survival rate for a 'Tail End Charlie' was, on average, eight missions, perhaps Doug was fortunate that his course was cancelled.

Doug said that he made and lost many good friends during those years in the RAF.

He was grateful for the camaraderie in those troubled times, but now enjoys a quieter life in retirement.

Cards and well wishes were sent from the Royal Air Forces Association, Barry branch, and the Royal British Legion. GH



RAF Veteran Doug Humphrey celebrated his 90th birthday in hospital recently.

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Henry returns to Wales, to support Ty Hapus

FORMER Wales rugby team coach Graham Henry is set to return to south Wales to visit Ty Hapus, the charity of which he is a patron.

Ty Hapus and Alzheimer's Society worked in partnership to develop the new centre in December 2011, in order to provide respite services and support for people under 65 and their carers.

Day trips, arts and crafts, cooking, music and singing and photography are some of the services that Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers provide at Ty Hapus.

Justine Pickering, whose mother was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's when she was 55, founded Ty Hapus with the aim of raising funds to set up the centre and provide

younger people with dementia with specialist services.

Ellin Jones, Alzheimer's Society support services manager for Cardiff and the Vale, said: "We very much look forward to welcoming Graham Henry to Ty Hapus and to introduce him to people living with dementia, their carers as well as staff, volunteers and supporters."

"Ty Hapus is a wonderful, innovative way to meet the needs of younger people who have a broader spectrum of needs."

"We hope to reach more people with this centre and help them to live well with dementia."

"Having Graham Henry as our patron will help to raise our profile as well as raise awareness of dementia in general."



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Refurbishment programme to start at hospice

THE Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, is set to begin work on refurbishment plans aimed at improving the standards of privacy and dignity offered to patients and their families.

A spokeswoman said: "Built in 1985, the five-storey hospice was purpose-built to reflect the care standards of its age. "Many of the current facilities are now in need of modernisation to meet the changing needs of patients and to provide a modern environment which meets the high levels of care offered by Marie Curie nursing staff."

"The 11-week refurbishment programme, starting mid-June, will see the existing layout reconfigured to greatly improve in-patient accommodation facilities."

"The changes will see more single occupancy rooms created and all multi-bed ward rooms will include new ensuite shower facilities."

"The existing reception area will be opened up to create a more modern and welcoming open plan space – complete with a large lounge area."

"In addition, new family and visitor rooms will be built across both patient floors, ensuring that families have the necessary space and privacy with which to visit their loved ones."

While the building work is being carried out, the hospice will temporarily re-locate on June 13 to a specially-adapted palliative care unit in Velindre Cancer Centre.

Marie Curie will continue to provide all current services for patients and visitors, including day services and complementary therapies, at the Velindre site. The Marie Curie community nursing service will continue to visit patients in their own homes.

Hospice manager Karen Stephens said: "We're very thankful to Velindre for accommodating us while we carry out a much-needed refurbishment of our hospice in Penarth."

"Every year it costs over £3.7 million, or more than £10,000 a day, to keep the hospice open – we are still very much reliant on our supporters to help raise the funds for running costs."

"The support of the community is vital – both in terms of money and volunteers – to enable us to continue to provide expert care and the best quality of life, totally free, for people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses."

Running in the sun for Age Concern



ABOVE: Karen and Simone show off their medals at the finishing line.

THE third annual Cardiff 5K fun run took place recently in Bute Park, where hundreds enjoyed the sunshine while running, jogging or walking for their chosen charities.

Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale were one of the fun run's nominated charities, and running to show their support on the day were Karen Steele and Simone O'Reilly.

Both completed the course and were presented with their

medals for taking part.

Karen said: "It was fun to take part, especially as the weather was on our side!"

"I'm proud to have completed the run and even more proud that we have been able to raise much-needed funds to help Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale continue their great work supporting local older people."

Anyone wanting to make a donation can visit: www.age-concern-cardiff.org.uk, or call 02920 527 186.

Paper dove for peace

MORE than 120 people of all ages attended a special Pentecost service at All Saints Church, in Victoria Square, Penarth, on Sunday, May 27.

The service began with the well-known hymn 'Shine Jesus Shine,' accompanied by the church orchestra.

Other special musical items included a medley of worship songs with piano and guitar accompaniment, with one song 'Jesus put this song into our hearts' specially arranged by Nigel Lloyd-Latham and featuring a moving violin solo from Tom Sharpe.

The choir, directed by organist John Davies, sang an unaccompanied version of 'Spirit of the Living God' and 'King of All Ages'.

Geoff Snowdon and Tricia Ingram then led a dramatised retelling of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, with sound effects provided by the congregation!

Rev Peter Cox then gave an address, followed by prayers led by the church youth group. When it came to the traditional sharing of the peace, all the children were presented with a paper dove as a sign of peace, which they then passed to other members of the congregation.

The next all-age service at All Saints is at 10am on Sunday, June 24, during which a number of adults and young people will be confirmed by the Right Rev David Wilbourne, Assistant Bishop of Llandaff. **MG**

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Customers had often told Chris that they found carpet stores overwhelming places, with a bewildering range of products and confusing layout. On the other hand, buying their flooring online, with no opportunity to first evaluate the quality and colour of the product, was a risk most were reluctant to take.

The solution? The best of both worlds. With 2012 Flooring, customers can first narrow down their preferences from the company's website. Chris will then take suitable samples to their homes for them to see them next to their own furniture, colour schemes and lighting. And there's never a hint of sales pressure because that goes against everything that 2012 Flooring stands for. Chris and his team are carpet fitters, not salesmen. They want their keen pricing, excellent standard of service and great reputation to be the only reasons people have for choosing them. For Chris, Michelle and the team, their good reputation is worth more than any sale, and their business model is driven by Michelle's 'three Ps' work ethic - professional, polite and punctual.

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When they started 2012 Flooring in 2009, Chris and Michelle wanted to create something fresh and new in the marketplace. They set out to turn the process of buying new flooring a pleasure rather than a pain. Three years on, their consistently positive customer feedback would suggest that they've succeeded.

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Bridgend gives Olympic flame a warm welcome!

LAST Saturday will be long remembered in Bridgend county borough as people turned out in their thousands to witness the arrival of the Olympic flame.

Residents lined every part of the Olympic Torch Relay route to cheer on members of the community who had been selected to act as torchbearers for the event.

The festivities began as a special Olympic convoy carried the flame from Rhondda Cynon Taf over the Bwlch into Bridgend county borough.

Nantymoel was the first community to welcome the flame as the convoy travelled down Bwlch-y-Clawdd Road and Ogwy Street. From here it moved on to Ogmere Vale along Aber Road, High Street and Cemetery Road.

Huge crowds greeted the relay as it travelled along Blackmill Road and Hong Kong Terrace in Bryncethin.

From Bryncethin, the torch moved on to Bridgend town centre where an estimated 35,000 people had gathered, many of whom had been queuing for several hours to ensure they could get the best views.

The relay entered the town centre at Derwen Road and was carried along a tightly packed Nolton Street.

In Cowbridge Road, the entire length of the dual carriageway was filled with wellwishers, then the relay moved up Park Street where many residents had decorated their houses with bunting and marked the occasion by holding garden parties and barbecues.

Crowds gathered along Bryntirion Hill, and in Laleston there was a community party as the relay headed towards Pyle and the final leg of its local journey.

Council Leader Mel Nott said: "People of all ages from all across the area turned out in their thousands to make this a once in a lifetime experience, not just from the county borough but from further afield too."

"There was a carnival atmosphere all along the route and I am continuing to hear stories about the many ways in which we came together as a community to mark this important occasion."

You can view images from the relay through Bridgend county borough by visiting the photostream for BCBC at: www.flickr.com.

MARK TAKES GOLD AT CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

A Welsh judoka is celebrating a double success after taking gold at the inaugural Barlestone Club Championships 24 hours after passing his 4th kyu grading.

Mark Pickering, 26, from Pencoeed, Bridgend, is the media officer at the British Judo Association - the National Governing Body for the Olympic and Paralympic sport of judo in Great Britain - and has embraced the sport since taking up the role in 2010.

The former Porthcawl Town footballer, who passed his 4th kyu grading on Friday to seal a promotion from a yellow to orange belt, was one of the club's eight senior judoka who took part in the competition on Saturday in Leicestershire.

Of the eight judoka, Mark held the second lowest grade but despite giving up experience and nous to grades including two 1st kyu judoka, the Loughborough-based writer swiftly moved into medal contention.

The Welshman won his pool with two victories and moved

forward to a second and final pool where he reeled off three more triumphs with all wins coming by way of ippon, the maximum score which immediately ends the contest.

The newly-crowned Barlestone Club Champion said: "I'm delighted to win gold, my goal was to win a medal so to top the medal rostrum was fantastic and topped a perfect weekend having graded on Friday."

"The club championships were a great event to be part of and I have to thank the club and the coaches and for their

fine efforts in delivering such an enjoyable and successful event."

Former British international and Barlestone head coach Wayne Lakin said: "Mark did really well, he worked hard and really utilised his ashiwaza (foot techniques) well and I have to thank him for volunteering as a table official for the junior competition."

Try the Olympic and Paralympic sport of judo with a free lesson at your local club. For details visit www.britishjudo.org.uk.

MP

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Tesco Stores Ltd - shared driveway.

Cowbridge Road, Mr D Dummett - 99

Bridgend - External signage to new 'click and collect' pod and canopy in the Tesco store car park.

Bridgend CBC - 4, 5 and 6 Heol Penderyn, Brackla - Cut back branches of beech trees to main trunk and fell and remove 1 x diseased tree (1989) OBC No. 5.

Bridgend BCB - Youth drop-in centre, Griffin Park, Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl - Re-siting of sectional building to provide a youth drop-in facility.

BCBC Regeneration Dept - Porthcawl harbour, Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl - Install new dock gate, new breakwater, new pontoons and repairs to dock walls.

Mr Gareth Thomas - 1 Dan y Deri, Broadlands - Fence and gate across

shared driveway.

Mr D Dummett - 99 West Park Drive, Porthcawl - Two storey side extension, first floor rear extension and provide forecourt parking; amended plans.

J and S Developments - 3 Bethania Street, Maesteg - Convert single residence into two self-contained apartments with rear single storey extension.

Mr Robert Vicker - Ty Maen, Bryncethin - Raise ridge height of two rear gable ends to provide greater amenity space.

Mr Michael Mills - 21 Heol y Blodau, Cefn Glas - Remove existing conservatory and construct single storey extension to rear.

Mrs P Collins - Land rear of Sandown, Ton Kenfig, Maudlam, Bridgend - Convert stable block with grain/sad-

de store to residential beauty spa with treatment rooms/office/lounge.

Mrs P Arnold - 14 Gally Ddrudwen, Broadlands - Proposed single storey extension for sun lounge.

Mrs Tracy Jefferies - 53 Heol Degwm, North Cornelly - Single storey rear shower room.

Mr Leo King - 20 Rhodfa Cnocell y Coed, Broadlands - Increase garden width by extending fence line 1.7m outwards.

Mr Stephen Davies - 12 Ty Fry Close, Brynmenyn - Single storey rear/side extension and garage conversion.

Mr Clive Williams - 2 Talana Terrace, Maesteg - Kitchen/bedroom extensions to rear.

Mr D L Thomas - Stormy Farm, Pyle - Cover open cattle feeding area and erect slurry

storage tower.

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC - Tynewydd and Maendy Farms, Gilfach Goch - Erection of seven wind turbines (blade top height of 110m) and associated works.

Energy Partnerships - Newton Down Windfarm, Stormy Lane, Porthcawl - Two wind turbines with max height

blade tip of 125m with vehicular access, site tracks and associated works.

Mr Andrew James - Pen y Bryn, Bryngarn Road, Rhiwceilog, Pencoeed - New building for storage and housing of horses.

Mr Nigel Wells - Land north of Haul Bryn, - 8 no. houses (outline application).

Pupils help charity

THE year-4 children in St David's Church in Wales Primary School recently raised £115 for CLIC SARGENT on their Enterprise Day.

They invited other children and parents to the event and sold popcorn, crispy cakes, Easter eggs, Easter decorations and bracelets. They also had activities such as

guess the name of the bear, guess the name of the rabbit and a lucky dip.

CLIC SARGENT charity supports young people with cancer and Mrs Claire Mitchell fundraises for the charity.

As she is one of the parents in St David's, she gratefully received the cheque from Lloyd and Ella, pupils in the year-4 class.

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Vale business leaders support new warship

THE HMS Dragon Officer's Auxiliary Mess is no longer 'all at sea' as it has found a permanent home for its on-shore mess dinners at the Vale Resort in Hensol.

The Vale Resort is playing host to the quarterly dinners over the coming year, when the auxiliary crew, made up of prominent members of the business community, meet to celebrate their association with HMS Dragon.

HMS Dragon is the Royal Navy's latest state-of-the-art stealth destroyer, which is affiliated to Cardiff. It is one of six Type 45 destroyers, designed to shield a fleet from air attack.

At 152-metres long, its huge flight decks can accommodate helicopters up to the size of a Chinook, with enough space to host up to 60 Royal Marines. It is one of the most advanced warships in the world, and can be deployed anywhere across the globe.

The formation of an OnShore Mess is an initiative of the British Warships Association (BWA), which serves to link Her Majesty's warships with business and communities in the ships' home regions.

Business leaders are



Commander Darren Houston RN from HMS Dragon presents Vale Resort Director, Stephen Leeke (right) with the Ship's Crest.

invited to join the onShore mess and show their support to the Royal Navy. The HMS Dragon onShore mess is headed by Commander John Curteis DL, former Deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and a local accountant.

The onShore mess has raised more than £55,000 for HMS Dragon through donations and sponsorship in kind, to support the welfare and quality of life on board the ship for its crew.

Commander Darren Houston said: "It is great news that we and the British Warships Association have formed a great friendship with one of the country's premier resort hotels."

"We are delighted that the Vale Resort will be

home to the auxiliary mess dinners. These dinners are a great way to let our supporters hear about HMS Dragon and to continue to build ties with all of our friends in Wales. "Proceeds from the dinner are donated to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity."

Commander Darren Houston RN and executive officer Lieutenant Commander John FitzPatrick RN, were guests at the Spring Mess Dinner on Friday, May 25, where Stephen Leeke, director of the Vale Resort, was presented with a Ship's Crest, as a token of their appreciation, and as a badge of honour.

Mr Leeke said: "The recent events around the world have emphasised

the importance of our armed forces in the UK.

"We are looking forward to being the HMS Dragon's Auxiliary Crew official onshore wardroom and providing the ship, as well as the business community, with a warm welcome when they are in the area."

HMS Dragon is keen to build further links with its home city of Cardiff and is currently looking for community projects that it can get involved with. Any communities who would like help in kind from HMS Dragon and her crew should get in touch with Stephen Watts from the British Warships Association on 07909 697326 or email steve.watts@bwa.org.uk

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ABOVE:
The Embraer 135 jet
complete with 'Best of
British' livery.

THE regional UK
airline, Eastern
Airways, which
operates flights from

Cardiff Airport, will
be flying the flag for
Britain this summer,
as one of its aircraft
has been unveiled in
Union Jack livery.

The one-off 'Best of
British' livery – in
vibrant red, white and
blue – has been intro-
duced to commemorate
the Queen's Diamond
Jubilee.

The new livery can be
seen on the fuselage and
tailfin of a 37-seater
Embraer 135 jet, which
flies around Eastern
Airways' UK and
European network.

DOG OF THE WEEK



ABOVE:
Loving Mollie is looking for a new home
away from the stressful life in kennels.

Can you give Mollie a home?

THE GEM has joined
forces with the Dogs
Trust to find suitable
homes for residents at
the Bridgend rehoming
centre.

THIS WEEK:
Mollie is a five-
year-old collie. She
is a really affection-
ate girl, and just
loves a good fuss!

She is a bright little
dog, and is looking for a
new home with an
owner who has owned
collies before, a spokes-

woman writes. She has
come from a working
background, so is a
bright and active girl.

She enjoys the com-
pany of other dogs, and
has regular lunch-dates
with her carer and her
dogs! She is house-
trained and can be left
for a few hours.

We are hoping her
perfect home will come
forward soon, as she is
used to living in a home
and is getting a little
stressed with life in ken-
nels. She will make a
really lovely companion
– could she be yours?

If you would like to
offer Mollie, or any of
our dogs a home, please
call on 01656 725219,
or visit the Dogs Trust,
Court Colman, Pen-y-
Fai, Bridgend, CF31
4NG.

We are open 12 noon-
4pm every day, except
Monday; and open until
8pm on Wednesdays.

Rockwool names Glaze 'charity of the year' for 2012



Tim Vincent of Rockwool presents the cheque to Ray Murray
and Andy Thomas of Glaze.

ROCKWOOL, the world's
leading manufacturer of stone
wool insulation, has presented
a cheque for £2,000 to Glaze
Prostate Charity, Wales, after
company employees voted to
make it Rockwool's Charity of
the Year.

Of the 12 charities put forward this
year by Rockwool employees, Glaze
was nominated as the most popular
cause.

The charity works to raise aware-
ness and promote understanding of
prostate diseases, together with raising
funds for the latest equipment and
training healthcare professionals.

The charity was nominated by Tim
Vincent at Rockwool, who presented
the cheque to Ray Murray and Andy
Thomas of Glaze at a ceremony early

this year. Rockwool spokesperson
Paula Bateman said: "Rockwool is
delighted to present this cheque to the
Glaze Charity.

"The Charity of the Year pro-
gramme generates great enthusiasm
around the plant as it is the employees
that decide which charity is chosen
and who the donation will benefit."

Ray Murra thanked the staff at
Rockwool for their donation, saying:
"This generous donation will go
towards funding the centre of excel-
lence for Green Light Laser treatment
at the Princess of Wales Hospital
Bridgend, and maintaining the quality
of the equipment at the centre in gen-
eral.

"It is thanks to donations like this
that the hospital is able to maintain its
status as one of only three eminent
teaching units in Europe."

Samantha B

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New Vale Council 'Scrutiny Chair'

INDEPENDENT Barry councillor Richard
Bertin has been appointed Chair of the Vale
Council's social care scrutiny committee.

One of the main tasks of the 10-strong cross-
party committee is to scrutinise plans to reduce
the financial overspend in the social services
department.

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OBITUARY

Florence Astrid Snell, a much-loved colleague and friend (1944-2012)

ON May 22, family, friends and GEM colleagues gathered at Coychurch Crematorium to commemorate the life of Florence Snell, a remarkable lady who enhanced the lives of everyone who knew her.

Florence (67) was born in Calcutta, India, on December 14, 1944, and in her later years made her home at Llantwit Major with her husband, Gerry.

She worked for The GEM as a typesetter for more than 12 years, and the sudden death of someone so full of fun and energy has shocked, not only her family and

close friends, but all of her work colleagues.

She led a fascinating life, full of travel and friendships, and knew dozens of people scattered across the globe – from Wales to Australia, and from India to England.

Florence's mother died when she was one-year-old and from 1946 to 1962, she was an infant, and then a pupil at Dr Graham's Home, Kalimpong, a hill station on the Mahabharat Range in north-west India.

Kalimpong lies in the shadow of the mighty Himalaya mountain range, which can be seen in the distance, and Florence retained a life-long love for the area, and also for Dr Graham's Homes, later sponsoring pupils through their school life.

Florence learned Pitman's shorthand and, thanks to Rev John

Cook, moved to Scotland. Prior to this, she had met her first husband Carl Evans, and they later made their home in Australia, where she worked as a PA at Brambles and secretary at the Victorian Association.

Carl died at the age of 44 in 1985 and nine years later, she met Gerry and they got married in Melbourne, Australia, in 1994. Apart from regular visits to London, India and Australia, Florence spent the latter part of her life happily in Llantwit Major, where she and Gerry were keen local walkers.

Florence also became a very popular and highly-valued member of The GEM staff – arriving early each morning, ever keen to discuss the latest news and sports events.

During Wimbledon fortnight, and the Open Golf Championship, colleagues recall that the radio would be on quietly in the background as she avidly followed the fortunes of her sporting favourites.

One of her great pleasures was to regale her many Welsh and English friends with the latest Australian sporting triumph. If the Australians were not doing too well, she was quite happy to cheer for Andy Murray or Luke Donald!

Florence died suddenly on May 5 and will always be remembered with love and fondness by her family, colleagues and many friends both in this country, and across the world.

Many of them from her school in Kalimpong travelled to pay their tributes at her funeral.

One, Rose Foo, said: "My first memory of Florence was that of a



ABOVE:
Florence (left) had friends all over the world.

'perfect prefect' who made an impression on me at Dr Graham's Homes school in Kalimpong. No-one would want to get into trouble with such a smart and disciplined prefect.

"Fate reconnected us at a hospital, where I was working in Melbourne. This meeting with Florence was not coincidental, because she became the key person who was instrumental in networking and connecting people.

"In her opinion the globe was very small when it concerned her old school connections and contacts. Her list of email addresses was endless.

"In retrospect, our last reunion, in 2010 in Kalimpong, was also to commemorate Florence's life, as hundreds of former students travelled from far and wide to attend it. We giggled, laughed and sang, like the old days at school.

"Her love for Dr Graham's Homes school was manifested in her commitment as secretary for the Victorian Committee in Melbourne, where she took an active role in promoting the school at every opportunity.

"She was very much a people-person, one who

loved life, zestful, energetic, dynamic and gifted with a free spirit. Florence was an extraordinary person who managed to build a rapport with everyone she met.

"In 1994, she came to Wales and married Gerry, who became her companion, husband, friend, bicycle riding buddy for 18 years, until one day when she fell off the bike. The bruises from the fall were a reminder to her to leave the bike rides to Gerry.

"Many house guests experienced Gerry and Florence's hospitality, a warm welcome thrown in with lovely walks around the beach in Llantwit Major, which became a popular destination for their visitors.

"Knowing Florence, she would not wish for us to mourn her sudden departure but to look at



ABOVE:
Florence (on left) with two close friends, Rose Foo and Margaretta Purtil.

life through rose-tinted glasses!"

The GEM's Editorial Manager, Don John, added: "Everyone here is still in a profound state of shock at the sudden snatching away of such a lively and caring personality, who had endeared herself to her colleagues by her positive outlook on life and warm, generous nature."

"Her personal loyalty, conscientiousness and genuine niceness were all rare qualities that stamped her out and she will be sadly missed, not least by myself. It was truly a privilege to have known her.

"I know I speak for everyone at The GEM in extending deepest sympathy to her sorrowing family and close friends in their very sad loss."



ABOVE: Schooldays – the prefects at Kalimpong in 1962 with Florence 'the perfect prefect' second from the left.



MONDAY

Barry
4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynion Hall,
Junction of Court Road
& Llanover Street
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Celtic Way Community
Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
4.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist
Church, Elfed Road
Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY

Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity
Presbyterian Church,
Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist
Church Hall,
Winston Road
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Iltyd
Church (Catholic)
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Calling all
past members.
A warm welcome
awaits you.

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium
Centre, Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton
Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY

Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge
Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Barry - 6.00pm
Highlight Park
Community Centre, Barry
Nia - 07793 885581

Dinas Powys
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Cabin by swimming
pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Cowbridge
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Aberthyn Road
Rob - 07708 941279



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Pupils from Bryn Hafren and St Richard Gwyn schools joined together at the Hub, Barry, to join in the Big Dance.



Thousands of schoolchildren aiming for a world record

TO mark the arrival of the Olympic Flame in the UK, at 1pm on May 18, thousands of schoolchildren in the UK and across the world joined together to take part in a world-record breaking dance, created especially for them by Wayne McGregor CBE, with an original score by Scanner and Joel Cadbury.

The record attempt was a worldwide warm-up for Big Dance 2012, which is to run from July 7-15 and is part of the London 2012 Festival. With the support of the British Council, the dance took place simultaneously in over 1,000 schools throughout the UK and across Europe, the USA, South America, South-East Asia, the Middle

East and the Far East. Each school learnt the same piece of choreography created by Wayne McGregor. Dancers from the 5x60 dance clubs in Bryn Hafren and St Richard Gwyn, along with the Motion Control Contemporary dance class – all taught by dance co-ordinator Emma Mallam, performed this routine at the Barry YMCA Hub,

supervised by Rachel Shepherd, 5x60 officer for the Vale, and staff members from the Hub. The current world record for the largest simultaneous multi venue dance is held by the Netherlands, with 1,472 locations and 264,188 people dancing. Jacqueline Rose, director of Big Dance 2012, said: "The glob-

al response to the Big Dance record attempt emphasises the power of dance as an artform to communicate and how it can unite communities.

"For the dancers and spectators, 1pm on May 18 was a moment when everyone expressed their creativity through movement that crosses all cultural boundaries."

For more information, contact: emma@vibeexperience.com.

Cardiff and Vale College lecturers cycle for charity



Lecturers Chris Bridgeman, Andy Brown, Anthony Crothers, Darren Hill, Anthony Parry and Paul Oake with Bill Reynolds, who will drive the van provided by Thames Valley Construction.

CONSTRUCTION lecturers from Cardiff and Vale College's (CAVC's) Cardiff Construction Training Centre are set to get on their bikes to raise funds for a charity which takes local children with health or social or emotional problems to Lourdes.

The six lecturers will cycle roughly 226 miles from Colwyn Bay to Cardiff Bay, starting on July 16.

They will be raising money on behalf of HCPT Group 99, which focuses on identifying local children who would benefit from a special holiday in Lourdes. It covers the Newport, Bassaleg, Rogerstone, High Cross and surrounding areas.

Lecturer Anthony Crothers said: "The idea arose from a staff room discussion. We wanted to raise funds for charity and embark upon a challenging bike ride, while at the same time seeing Wales from the saddle in an effort to gain more knowledge about our country."

"We see it as an opportunity to link into Curriculum Cymraeg, improve our fitness and wellbeing and raise funds for an extremely good cause."

Newport-based firm Thames Valley Construction, which has close links with the college, will provide a van that will transport the intrepid cyclists up to north Wales.

Driver Bill Reynolds explained: "We had difficulty in finding a way of getting from Cardiff to North Wales, so we called the managing director of Thames Valley, Liam McGoldrick, and he

kindly offered us the use of a van."

Liam's daughter Mairead McGoldrick, Thames Valley's Company Secretary, is also closely involved with HCPT Group 99.

She said: "We've been going in this area for three years now. We're trying to raise £20,000 – we took eight children to France last month. It's great that the college is helping us as we need to raise as much as possible so we can pay all of the children's expenses."

HCPT is a nationally registered charity made up of local groups who treat local children.

"They take them for a week's holiday to Lourdes and throughout the week the children are cared for by experienced volunteer helpers."

Donations can be made via the JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/bikefor99.

Castaways cake sale

WITH the Castaways Club settling into the Trinity Church Hall for Wednesday and Friday lunch, bingo, refreshments and social activities, former members of Rondel House, who set up the Castaways Club, are holding a cake sale to raise funds, hosted by Jane Hutt AM.

She urges: "Come and support the pio-

neering Castaways club members who are offering their members lunch, bingo and fun on Wednesdays and Fridays in the Trinity Church Hall, Barry. "Come and support us at 10.30am on Friday, June 1, and enjoy meeting the members, with cakes to buy and refreshments to enjoy, plus a raffle!"

Eisteddfod Crown presented to the executive committee

THE Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod Crown has been handed over to the Eisteddfod's executive committee at a special event in Barry this week.

The crown has been donated by the Vale Council and the financial prize is presented by Islwyn and Ann Jones, of Wenvoe. The crown was designed and created by Anne Morgan of Penarth.

This year, the crown is presented for a sequence of poems, not more than 250 lines, on the subject 'Ynys' (Island). The adjudicators are Cen Williams, Cyril Jones and Penri Roberts.

The crown's design has been inspired by the landscape of the Vale, with the rocks and cliffs of the area represented in the simple but bold design, and epitomises the designer's love for the region.

Receiving the crown on behalf of the Eisteddfod's local executive, chair Dylan Jones said: "It gives me great pleasure to receive this attractive crown which reflects the beauty of our area."

"We thank the Vale Council for their generosity, and we very much hope that there will be a worthy winner of this beautiful crown in the ceremony on the Pavilion stage on the Monday of the Eisteddfod in Llandow."

"We are also very grateful to Islwyn and Anne Jones for their support in donating the substantial financial prize this year."

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming the Eisteddfod to the Vale in August."

"It is a great honour to be hosting the event, and I am delighted to present the crown on behalf of the council."

"Anne Morgan has produced a work of art that really does reflect the beauty of the Vale."



The silver crown is asymmetrical, like the land around the Vale's beaches, and this is a dramatic element of the design.

Ann used a technique called reticulation on the crown, using a flame to almost melt the surface of the silver, creating a special texture on the metal. She then combined this technique with matt silver, creating a texture similar to the sea's erosion on objects such as glass and pebbles.

Anne said: "This is the first crown I've created for the National Eisteddfod, and I hope it reflects my feelings for the area close to this year's festival."

"I've lived and worked in Penarth for a number of years, and naturally, the coastline has inspired my work."

"It has been an honour to use this inspiration to create the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod's crown this year."

The crowning ceremony will be held on August 6 at 4.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend the ceremony should ensure they have a reserved seat ticket.

Tickets can be purchased beforehand by ringing 0845 4090 800 or by going to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, or they can be purchased on the day at the main entrance.

The National Eisteddfod will be held on the old airfield at Llandow from August 4-11.

(SEE MORE EISTEDDFOD NEWS ON PAGE 20).

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New Vale Mayor looks forward to year in office

THE new Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker, has spoken of his excitement over his appointment, and says he is looking forward to the coming year.

He told The GEM: "I am very excited! This is something I have looked forward to for a number of years. I have been nominated before, but never got enough votes."

"I want to meet the people and be a part of their communities. I've already been to a function in Penarth with the WRVS and they made

me feel quite at home. It was most enjoyable - lots of little things like that make a difference!"

The Llantwit First Independent, who has been a town councillor since 1998 and a Vale councillor since 2004, has already named the Stroke Association, any charities raising money for Prostate Cancer research, and Help for Heroes, as his main charities during his time in office.

He added: "I will decide later in the year how it will be split. I don't want to make promises I can't stick to - something we should

all adhere to."

He also spoke of the change in the voting demographic of the Llantwit Town Council that has seen a completely independent council move in for the next term.

"I hope our association with Labour in the Vale Council is successful. We will vote on what we think is best for Llantwit and the Vale."

"I am very proud that the people of Llantwit have supported us. They are very conscious of what is required and I think that people realise we are the best for that."

"I just want support, and it is up to me to drum it up."

Coun Hacker also spoke about the upcoming National Eisteddfod at Llandow, and revealed that it is not the first time that he and the show will have come in to contact.

"I am looking forward to the Eisteddfod," he added.

"I have some experience - I was the winner of the 'champion boy solo' when it was held in Mountain Ash in 1946, many years ago."

Finally, with a year of functions ahead of him, Coun Hacker expects to see some physical changes too.

"I expect my figure will probably change - and it's large enough at the moment!"

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

Barry police in witness appeal

POLICE in Barry are appealing for witnesses to a serious assault which is alleged to have taken place in the early hours of Saturday, May 19, at a nightclub on Barry Island.

Police say that a 21-year-old man from Barry was the victim of the assault, and that a 19-year-old local man has been arrested and charged with a Section 18 Assault. He has been remanded in custody.

The police say the

incident happened at around 1.50am in the beer garden of the 2EZE.

Detective Constable Mike Hill of Barry CID said: "This was a very serious incident and we want to hear from anyone who may have seen it and we are investigating it thoroughly."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact DC Hill at Barry CID on 01446 731606 or on 07584 883509 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Letting pictures tell the story

WHEN we look for something, we visualise the object rather than the word for it.

Every departure from a page of plain text is more easily found, the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words still applies in a document of few or many pages.

At the recent meeting of the Penarth Computer Club, Howard set out how to use this to advantage.

Attaching pictures to emails is familiar to most users, but far fewer routinely grab a bit of the screen and turn it into a picture to illustrate a point; yet it is so easy to do.

If you need to copy a computer error message to a friend looking for help, it is safer to send an image rather than try to type the whole message precisely.

If you press the Print screen key ('Prt Scrn') an image of the screen is sent to the clipboard. From there it can be pasted into a document by opening the document, putting the cursor where you want it and pressing 'Ctrl+V'. The image can be adjusted for size by clicking on it to select it and dragging one of the resultant little black grab handles around the edges and dragging it.

If you just want a window rather than the whole screen, hold down the 'Alt' key when you press 'Prt Scrn' and you will get a neat 'snip' of the active window and can treat it as above.

Should you wish to edit the snip in any way, paste it into whatever picture-editing program you use and edit to suit.

The result can be saved with an appropriate name to any folder and from there imported into an open document

by selecting Insert>Picture>From file...; navigate to where you have saved it; select it and say 'OK'. Adjust it within the document to suit.

For more control of the insert within the document, click on it to select it, then right-click and select 'Format Picture' from the menu. Here you can tweak several properties, but most conveniently (on the Layout tab) choose how it relates to the surrounding text.

All this allows you to make the page more informative and more visually interesting. It turns the whole page into a more easily remembered 'picture' itself.

The effect is increased if the insert is tilted a little by grabbing the green handle to rotate it.

All the above applies in windows XP and Windows 7, but Windows 7 includes a special 'Snipping Tool' to make it easier still. You will find it by clicking Start>All Programs>Accessories>Snipping Tool.

The next meeting is on June 12 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 8pm. We shall review our year so far and ask if we can do better? For more information telephone 02920 708439. HD

Councillors' surgeries

Newly-elected Sully councillors Bob Penrose and Kevin Mahoney are holding joint constituent surgeries open to all residents of Sully, Lavernock and Cosmeston.

These will be held on Thursday, June 7, 8pm-9pm at the Jubilee Hall Sully; and Wednesday, June 20, 7pm-8.30 pm at the Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockhill Way.

To contact Coun Penrose, telephone 02920 530368; and for Coun Mahoney call 01446 746671.

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Ivor paints Iolo for Eisteddfod



AFTER 35 years of intermittent working, artist Ivor Davies has completed a painting of one of his heroes, inspired by the coming of the National Eisteddfod to the Vale this year.

The Penarth artist aims to keep the memory of Welsh personalities alive.

Celebrating Iolo Morganwg was an obvious choice. After all, the stone mason and poet, born at Llancarfan in 1747, was responsible for inventing the majority of the National Eisteddfod's ceremonies, along with establishing the Gorsedd of Bard.

Initially though, a mountain near Lake Rotomahana, New Zealand, served as the image's background: "I tend to work on more than one painting at the same time, then leave them and return to them years later," said Ivor Davies.

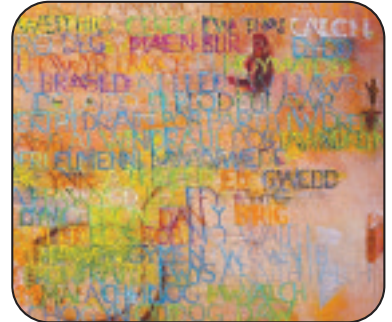
In time, he added Iolo Morganwg's images to the painting. He was then inspired further, when he came across a verse by the poet proclaiming his love for the Vale 'Af i Forganwg hoywffalch'.

"I decided to draw it in chalk across the work; then over the years, I've painted the letters. Through the poem, the painting comes to life."

Fun day for charity

LLANTWIT MAJOR will be host to a Jubilee fun day on Saturday, June 2, when there will be bouncy castles and a barbecue, and a collection for charity which will go to Healing the Wounds.

Also in the function room, the big screen will show the Wales v Barbarians and everyone is welcome to join in the fun at Llantwit Major RFC.



Ivor Davies' Eisteddfod print.

Assigned and numbered, 23" x 23" reproduction, printed on Hahenmühle paper, is available from the Eisteddfod office. (Limited to an edition of up to 100 prints)

Ivor Davies was awarded the gold medal for fine art when the National Eisteddfod visited St David's in 2002.

Welsh phrase of the week? Ymadrodd yr wythnos: Esgusodwch fi (Ess-giss-odd-ugh vee) which means 'Excuse me'.

(See page 19 for more Eisteddfod news).

O'r diwedd, ar ôl 35 mlynedd o waith ysbeidiol, mae'r artist Ifor Davies wedi cwblhau ei baentiad o un o'i arwyr. Ac i ddyfodiad yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol i Fro Morgannwg eleni y mae'r diolch am hynny, meddai.

Gan fod yr artist o Benarth yn awyddus i gynnwrf y genedl drwy ddarlunio cymeriadau sydd wedi'u hanner anghofio, fel Dic Aberdaron a Dr William Price, roedd dathlu Iolo Morganwg yn ddewis anlwg.

Wedi'r cwbl, y saer maen a'r bardd, a anwyd yn Llancarfan yn 1747, fu'n gyfrifol am lunio'r rhan fwyaf o seremonïau'r Eisteddfod

Enillodd Ifor Davies y fedal aur am geflyddyd aur yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Sir Benfro, Tyddewi 2002.

Bellach, gallwch archebu'r print, 23" x 23", wedi'i arwyddo a'i rifo, a'i argraffu ar bapur Hahenmühle, o Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod am £195 y copi. (Mae'r rhediad wedi'i gyfyngu i hyd at 100 print).

SIONED EDWARDS

Last chance for a Jubilee prize

THERE is a last chance to enter the Queen's Jubilee free prize draw at Barry for those born between May 1 and July 31, 1952.

There are four prizes: ● A G Adams & Son Funeral Directors in Gladstone Road donated a meal for two (value £50) and a limousine to

take you there; ● Co-operative food at Weycock Cross and Colcot Road donated a bottle of Champagne and a food hamper; ● Co-operative Pharmacy in Holton Road donated a gift set.

Entry forms are available at any of the above, proof of date of birth is required, and the closing date is June 1, at 10am.

Summer music party for Dan

THE next Daniel Downton 'Cwtch Fund' event is a party featuring live music from two of the finest bands in the county.

This Saturday (June 2), Acoustically Sound and Bootleg will be pumping out a mix of classics and contemporary tunes at the 'Sounds of Summer' party at the Dolphin, Barry. The party will continue with The Salty Dog Experience playing tunes into the night.

Organiser Rob Salter said: "I know they have both turned down other gigs to play on Saturday and they have been practicing hard for weeks, adding some new tunes to their sets."

"I am really looking forward to this, there's a real beach party vibe and we are expecting a good turn out."

"Both bands have a big following and usually pull a crowd."

He said that the local community has really come out in force to help Dan's fundraising efforts.

After this Saturday's party, the next event will be a quiz night at Brynhill Golf Club on Saturday, June 9. Any teams or individuals wishing to take up the challenge can call Lisa on 07712 457550.

Dan's treatment is ongoing and he continues to have his victories and set backs. He has recently undergone a particularly intense round of chemotherapy.

His mum Claire said: "We have been overwhelmed by the community spirit, kindness and generosity we have seen since Daniel became ill, he has had a really tough time recently and has spent a lot of time in hospital."

"The treatment has been particularly hard



on him but he is still happy Daniel Downton.

and cheerful most of the time. He's an inspiration to us all."

The Sounds of Summer party starts at 8pm. Entry is £5 and tickets are available from Demon Barber, Vic Hopkins, Marco's (Barry Island), Barry Fire Station, and Big Dave's Chippy. There will be tickets on the door but early arrival is recommended.

Coffee morning for Daniel

A COFFEE morning at Orchard House raised £300 for Daniel's Cwtch Fund - which Nat Gibson (owner) doubled to £600.

Maralyn Sylvester (the recreation activities organiser) held a raffle where every resident received a prize.

Mr Gibson entertained the residents with music on the accordion, which helped to make a very enjoyable morning for everyone.

The cheque was presented to Daniel's nanny, Eleanor Downton.

Jubilee picnic

RESIDENTS of Dinas Powys are invited to bring all the family to a 'bring and share' picnic in St Peter's Church grounds, Mill Road, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday, June 5, from 2pm.

Rector's warden, John Fanshaw, said: "Tea and coffee will be available from the church hall."

This will be a community event, open to all - so all are invited to come along with a picnic and chairs and/or a rug, together with their family and friends, for a great afternoon of fun and games!" said

Jubilee service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a special service on Sunday June 3, at 10am to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The service will last about 45 minutes and will be followed by a buffet on the gallery (lift available).

Gardens open

THE following local gardens will be open under the National Gardens Scheme over June 9-10:

Bonvilston Village Gardens, Bonvilston, CF5 6TY: Just outside Cowbridge on the A48, Bonvilston is a pleasant rural village centred on the 13th century church, cosy public house and village shop.

Plas-y-Coed is a stunning work in progress, with rose arbour and magical vistas.

Plas Newydd, with rose borders, fruit and vegetable area and elegant greenhouse, and The Old Barn, all have lovely views across the Vale.

The Old Barn is a 17th century barn conversion with a one-acre garden.

Open: Sunday, 10 June (12pm-5pm), admission £4.

Bordervale Plants, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen, Cowbridge, CF71 7SX: Within mature woodland valley (semi-tamed), with stream and bog garden, extensive mixed borders; wild flower meadow, providing diverse wildlife habitats. Children must be supervised.

Open: For NGS: Sunday, June 10, Monday, August 27 (10am-5pm); admission £3.

Cefn Cribw Garden Club, Cefn Cribw, Bridgend, CF32 0AP: Cefn Cribw gardening club is the heart of a friendly community, opening for the first time this year.

The seven diverse gardens vary from the local school allotments, an exposed mature garden, a recycled garden, a garden that has its own composting system, a children's garden, a rustic garden and lastly a productive vegetable garden. Open: Sunday, June 10 (10am-4pm); admission £3.

Llanblethian Gardens, CF71 7JU: This picturesque hillside country village, quiet and unspoilt is adjacent to the popular market town of Cowbridge.

Stallcourt Mews is a front terraced courtyard garden. Side and rear sloping garden with 60m stream (unfenced) and ponds.

The garden of St Quintin's cottage was designed by renowned garden designer Ralph Hancock and features his herringbone paving.

Stone terraces and sloping lawns are linked by winding paths and steps to ornamental ponds with cascades. Entry is by steps.

Open: Sunday, June 10 (2pm-6pm); admission £3.50.

Park Funeral Directors – serving the local community



The Jubilee display on show at Park Independent Funeral Directors.

AS the Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee on June 5, it is also the second anniversary of Park Independent Funeral Directors, serving the community of Barry and the rest of the Vale.

Lyndsay Ellis, the principal, would like to thank all those who have supported and welcomed the company since its formation.

He said: "I also wish to thank all who have given their trust in me and my staff to care for their loved ones and give them the personal and dignified send off that they deserve."

"I would also like to thank Bob Johnson, my new funeral director,

who has become a valuable part of the team since joining in January 2011.

"Bob and I worked together during our time at A G Adams and Son, and we both have the same determination to guide families in their time of need."

"Being independent, means that we answer to our families and are not part of any large, national funeral chains."

"We are family orientated and can go that extra mile, giving bereaved families a lasting memory."

"We guarantee, and can assure, our families that we carry out all care of their loved ones at our premises, not out of area, and they remain here until the day of the funeral."



Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

THERE'S LOTS FOR KIDS TO DO THIS SUMMER HALF TERM

LOCAL families are spoilt for choice when it comes to half term, for in good weather they can visit the glorious beaches of the Heritage Coast.

A day at the beach is the ideal opportunity for mum and dad to enjoy a relaxing day in the sun, while the youngsters burn off all that excess energy.

Play facilities
But there are lots of alternatives nowadays for families who fear being at a loose end.

Nowadays, every town has soft play

facilities – some local pubs even supply extensive activity areas with seating for parents.

FREE SWIM LESSONS

Then there are local sports centres – Vale leisure centres are making a splash this half term with a selection of free swimming-based activities.

Free swimming sessions will be on offer at certain times during the week in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major, while further free activities in the pools will include snorkelling, water polo and a rookie lifeguards course.

Children can also improve their swimming technique by taking swimming lesson crash courses, with half hour lessons costing just £4.40.

OLYMPICS STYLE!

Outside the water, the other activities on offer will include inflatable mega sessions with slides and bouncy castles, as well as dance mat classes, basketball, hockey and extreme

dodgeball.

Cowbridge Leisure Centre will also be hosting Olympic athletics sessions on Tuesday, June 5, for children aged from four to 12.

The fun sessions will feature sprints, hurdles, jumps and throwing events.

(Please note that the leisure centres in Cowbridge and Penarth will be closed on Monday, June 4, while the leisure centres in Barry and Llantwit Major will be closed on Tuesday, June 5).

For further details, please download the activity programme online from www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres or call the leisure centres on 01446 403000.

For further ideas of how you can spend an active half term, follow @valesportsnews on Twitter.

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Out and About with The GEM

BLACK IS THE COLOUR THIS SUMMER IN SCI-FI BLOCKBUSTER

If you required an example of Hollywood's lack of imagination, you couldn't go much further than looking at the greenlighting of a third outing for the *Men In Black* franchise.

While the first offering was an impressive mix of action and comedy, the second was a lame re-tread of the first, with ridiculous plotting and an inability to conjure up the magic of the first.

The third outing sees Agent J (Will Smith) have to travel back in time to avert the death of Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones) in the future; Josh

Brolin in the past) at the hands of alien Boris (Jemaine Clement) or else see history change for the worse...

It's been four years since Will Smith last took up residence on the big screen with the interminable *Seven Pounds*. Has the box office king been missed in this period? Arguably not, but seeing Smith headlining a summer blockbuster does seem to restore some equilibrium to the universe!

The question is, does *Men In Black 3* deliver the goods in a summer where *The Avengers* assembled to huge box office numbers, and Batman is ready to swoop in to almost certainly do the same? The answer is just about, the

film unable to match up to the first one, yet going some way to make up for the disaster of the second film.

The key ingredient here is breaking up the partnership of Smith and Tommy Lee Jones (reduced to more or less an extended cameo here). The duo's chemistry was a major component in the first film, while their verbal sparring gave the second film its brightest moments.

However, the relationship here, certainly in the early stages of the film, feels tired and lacking spark, Smith and Jones looking and sounding as though they would rather be anywhere else than in their black suits.

When Agent J time-jumps back to 1969, that's when the film kicks up a gear, in no small part due to Josh Brolin's turn as the younger Agent K. The actor takes off Jones exceptionally well, but his performance offers more than just impressions, Brolin taking what may have been an afterthought and sending it front and centre.

Smith's performance doesn't quite match up

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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Talk on Twitter -
@GEMScreenTalk

to Brolin's turn, the wisecracking routine occasionally feeling a little jaded, but with no small degree of wit once he's placed into the melting pot of the late 60's, where his skin colour makes him the alien. Certainly Smith has no difficulty in holding up his end of the act-

ing, but there is little that is fresh to his routine.

While Emma Thompson shines in a small role as the new head of the MIB, Michael Stuhlbarg impresses as the visionary Griffin, and Bill Hader raises laughs as Andy Warhol, Jemaine Clement suffers from being miscast as the villainous Boris The Animal.

The comedian is hampered by being given a character that is purely evil, thus rendering his comedic skills redundant, and comes under layers of prosthetics that make him virtually anonymous; it's a shame that Clement isn't allowed to play to his strengths more and bridge the gap between villainy and comedy as Vincent D'Onofrio did in the first film; as it is he just feels out of place.

Barry Sonnenfeld maintains the visual feel and tone of the film, having directed the first two installments, and offers up some clever action sequences, the time jump concept in particular well realised, even if he sometimes struggles a little with the concept, the script

resolving any issues with a cursory line of explanation.

He also loses his way a little with the climax, lacking the pizzazz and wow factor you would want from a blockbuster, while the emotional beats feel a little too convenient and contrived.

However, as a blockbuster film, *Men In Black 3* certainly doesn't offend, ticking all the boxes even if the execution doesn't always work. In a summer of heavyweights, these MIB just about hold their own.

VERDICT: Not as sparkling as the first but a vast improvement on the messy second, *Men In Black 3* is a decent if overly tricky summer event movie. While the lure of seeing Will Smith return to the big screen is tempered by his somewhat lackadaisical performance, the likes of Josh Brolin and Michael Stuhlbarg pick up the slack, in a pleasing but slight movie. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Men In Black* (1997), *Wild Wild West* (1999).

Scope for more volunteers in the community

SCOPE SULLY has a brand new **Disability Inclusion Project** available for volunteers aged 18 plus - aiming to reduce loneliness, isolation and improve the wellbeing for disabled older people aged 50 plus in the Vale.

As a supportive volunteer you would help people to overcome barriers, try new things, gain more confidence and help them to decide what it is they would like to do.

This could be done by supporting people in activities or clubs and encouraging them to become more involved.

If you enjoy meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds, are interested in people, are caring and compassionate then perhaps you might like to assist within the above voluntary opportunity.

In return, the organisation will provide full training, help you to develop new skills and reimburse your travel expenses.

For further information contact the Vale Volunteer Bureau, 34 Holton Road, Barry (Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm), call 01446 421782, email: info@vvb.org.uk, or visit: www.vvb.org.uk.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D724.

● **£2,000:** 222847.
● **The rollover,** which now stands at **£11,500,** was not won this week.
● **£10:** 653498, 320779, 492041, 724803, 355726, 803932, 709738, 219937, 768477, 786578, 101828, 332400, 814763, 531158, 331019, 898345, 512831, 843269, 297124, 828224.
● **£5:** 460538, 376330, 944688, 662064, 540280, 116251, 343122, 801732, 411700, 639359.

220907, 446088, 236242, 753971, 225266, 867282, 424873, 332716, 278085, 879273, 163205, 390690, 655349, 299504, 536846, 327727, 518452, 497930, 799123, 868926, 613697, 643795, 654210, 474075, 155424, 132934, 891399, 886189, 799982, 359186, 611419, 764156, 596931, 809846, 483127, 219408, 431570, 630829, 717762, 644886, 419580, 278204, 216203, 428807, 816878, 536731, 242873, 712350, 397157, 663646.
The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.
For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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LATE AFTERNOON SHOW

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FAMILY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

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Out and About with The GEM

What's on this bank holiday weekend

CAB outreach
NEW drop-in times have been announced by the Vale of Glamorgan Citizens' Advice Bureau outreach service at West House Cottage, Stanwell Road, Penarth, on Thursdays.

The new drop-in times will be: 9.30am-11.30am; 12pm-1pm, commencing on Thursday, June 7.

Clients who have had appointments booked for them with an advisor will be unaffected by the change.

Aberkenfig party

ABERKENFIG and District United Churches (AADUC) are holding a Queen's Diamond Jubilee

party in St John's Church, Aberkenfig, on Sunday, June 3; doors open from 3pm.

Share fun, food and fellowship; please bring a plate of finger food; All welcome!

Fete
THERE will be a fete held by the Llandough Community Council at the King George V Memorial Playing Fields on Saturday, June 9 at 2pm.

The program will be: dancing display by Zumbatomic (2.05pm), Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band (2.15pm, throughout afternoon), children's magic show (2.30pm), children's races (3pm), Desert Divas (belly dancing, 3.15pm), children's magic show (3.35pm).

pet competition (4pm) and raffle prize draws (4.45pm).

There will also be stalls, games, plants, a bar, classic bikes, free classic bus rides, face painting, tombola, food, martial arts, knick knacks, smellies, a police display, Mario Morris, bran tub, a model railway and much more.

Bonsai tree exhibition

THERE will be a bonsai tree exhibition at Llantion Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10 (10am-5pm both days).

Don Knight will be exhibiting his collection of bonsai trees and sharing his knowledge of and interest in this ancient art. Entrance £2.50, under-12s free. Refreshments available.

Phone Ros Lewis on 01446 795530 for more information.

Thrift shop

THE thrift shop at Woodpecker Square, St Athan will be closed for half term week, re-opening on June 11 at 10am.

Llanfair reunion -

LLANFAIR Primary School is celebrating its centenary this year and is holding a coffee morning on Tuesday, June 12 at 10.30am in the school hall.

Past pupils, parents, retired teachers, governors or members of the local community can enjoy an informal cup of coffee and cake and spend time reminiscing!

Bring old photographs and memorabilia; tickets £3. Contact Mrs Normansell on 01446 7722456, Mary Llewellyn on 01446 773421 or 07800974527.

Open art exhibition

A GREAT variety of entrants for the sum-

mer open art exhibition at the Travellers cafe/art gallery on Barry station has resulted in another outstanding show for the public with a high standard of ceramics, photography, painting and prints on display.

The cafe, run by Mind in the Vale (www.mindinthevale.org.uk) and supported by the Vale of Glamorgan Artists Group (www.voga.org.uk), supports those recovering from mental health problems in their quest in getting back to work.

The show runs until July 14 (Mondays-Fridays, 7.30am-1pm). **Guide Dogs' spectacular**
TO celebrate Guide Dogs for the Blind's 80th anniversary, the Vale fundraising branch is organising a spectacular event, with ballroom, Latin American and sequence dancing at the Barry Memorial Hall, on June 15.

The highlight will be a dance demonstration by Darren Bennett and Lilia Kopylova, former winners of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. All money raised

from the event will go towards the training of more guide dogs to help visually impaired people in Guide Dogs Cymru.

Tickets are available from Barry Memorial Hall booking office, email boxoffice@barrymemo.co.uk or telephone 01446 738622.

BHF call

WOMEN residents of Cowbridge are being invited for "a cuppa and a chat" at the Arboreal Restaurant in Cowbridge on June 21 (10am-12 noon) to support the local British Heart Foundation fundraising group. For more information, contact the fundraising office on 02920 382408.

Ty Hafan can take you places!
THE Ty Hafan summer raffle offers a chance to take the family on a fun-packed holiday in Florida to swim with dolphins and experience the magical world of Disney.

Or winners could choose to take the first prize in the form of £3,000 in cash. The second prize is

£1,000 or a set of stunning garden furniture plus there are five third prizes of £100.

All the proceeds go towards helping life-limited children, young people and their families to make the very most of their lives together - however long that time may be.

To enter the Ty Hafan Summer Raffle, return tickets you have received in the post by July 3. If you have not received tickets or wish to order extra, simply call the ticket hotline on 02920 672054 or visit www.tyhafan.org/summer-prize-draw.

Model lifeboats

BARRY model boat club is holding a model lifeboat show at Cold Knap Lake on July 1 from 1.30pm-3.30pm.

The Barry lifeboat will have a stall to sell promotional products, with all proceeds going to the RNLI.

A variety of lifeboats is expected on the lake.

For more information, please call Ron Pearson on 07890 606 775.

New exhibition at 'Travellers'

A GREAT variety of entries for the summer open art exhibition at the Travellers' Gallery on Barry Station has resulted in another outstanding show for the public.

A high standard of ceramics, photography, painting and prints are on display.

The friendly café, run by Mind in the Vale and supported by the Vale of Glamorgan Artists group (www.voga.org.uk) supports those recovering from mental health problems in their quest to get back into work.

The show is on until July 14, open



ABOVE:
Bee Lilli has a painting in the exhibition.

Mondays-Fridays, 7.30am-1pm.

Ann Townson (member of VoGA)

Horse Racing

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR THE FAMILY!

Countryside Alliance Point-to-Point

Bank Holiday Monday 4th June at Redlands Park, Bonvilston
First race 2.00pm

- Six scheduled races and pony races.
- Licenced bookmakers and caterers in attendance

BROAD STREET GARDEN CENTRE
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10 Broad Street • Barry • CF62 7AA
(Please ring during opening hours)

Open garden in Singingstone

UNDER the open garden scheme, Kathy and Rhodri Williams invite members of the public to Hafod Y Fro, Singingstone, CF71 7IP.

It will be in aid of Llanmihangel Church on Saturday, June 16 from 3pm-6pm and tickets are £3 and children are free. Refreshments available.

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Friday 8th June

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Saturday 9th June

DAVID LONGDON

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With lots of activities and shows to enjoy. Circus workshops,

Meet Mad Professor Potts and Lonesome 'Pecan' Pete the Cowboy. Balloon modelling with Dr Bob and say 'Hi' to Franco Basetti an original white faced mime artist.

Adults £6.00 • Children/OAP's £5 • Family (2 +3) £26

DIAMOND JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Saturday 2nd - Tuesday 5th June - Margam Kite Festival.

(Entry fee applies for Monday 4th).

Saturday 2nd - Sunday 3rd June - Margam Model Boat Club Show www.margammodelboats.co.uk

Sunday 3rd - Monday 4th June - Craft and Gift Fair in the Castle (Entry fee applies for Monday 4th).

For more information about the Park and events call 01639 881635 www.margamcountrypark.co.uk

Like our Facebook page for all the latest news and activities.





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Jubilee Cabaret Evening

Marquee at The Winchfield (weather permitting)
or Penllyn Village Hall

International Cabaret Artistes Maria Lyn. Includes buffet, bar and raffle.
Tel: 01446 772071

Saturday 2nd June

7:30pm

Noson Ganu Jubilee

Pabell yn The Winchfield (os mae'r tywydd yn aych)
neu Neuadd Bontref Penllyn

Y gantores rhyngwladol Maria Lyn, hefyd bwyd, diod a raffi.
Ffôn: 01446 772071

Sadwrn, 2 Mehefin

7:30yp

Queen's 60th Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Winchfield, Craig Penllyn,

Bring your own Jubilee picnic. There will be competitions, stalls, afternoon teas, buskers, children's activities, competitions, fun, games and races..

Tel: 01446 772071

Sunday 3rd June

12 - 4pm

Dathliadau Jiwibili y Frenhines

The Winchfield, Craig Penllyn

Dewch a picnic eich hunan. Mi fydd yna gystadleuthau, stondinau, te yn y prawn, gweithgareddau i blant, gemau, rhasus....diwrnod llawn hwyl

Ffôn: 01446 772071

Sul, 3 Mehefin

12 - 4yp

Jubilee Tea Dance

The Gathering Place, St Athan

Teas, cakes & sandwiches available. A dance demonstration by dance teacher John Taylor and some of his students. Join in or just watch.
Cost £4. Limited spaces so please book early!

Tel: 01446-750700 or thegatheringplacestathan@gmail.com

Saturday 9th June

2 - 4:30pm

Dawns Te y Jiwibili

The Gathering Place, Sain Tathan

Te, caccennau a brechdanau ar gael. Perfformiad dawn gan yr athro John Taylor a rhai o'i fyfyrwyr. Ymunwch mewn neu gwyllo. Cost o £4. Cyfyngiad ar niferau felly bwcwch yn gynnar!

Ffôn: 01446-750700 neu thegatheringplacestathan@gmail.com

Sadwrn 9 Mehefin

2 - 4:30yp

Y Bont Faen Circus

Y Bont Faen Primary School field

With BBQ & ice creams. Fred's Flying circus will be on show along with a school pupils performance. Tickets £6, available on school website
www.ybontfaen.com.

Friday 15th June 7pm

Saturday 16th June 2:30pm & 7pm

Syrcais Y Bont Faen

Ysgol Gynradd y Bont Faen

Sioe gyda Syrcais Hedfan Fred, gyda BBQ a hufen ia, ynghyd a perfformiadau gan ddisgyblion yr ysgol. Ticedau £6 yr un ar wefan yr ysgol.
www.ybontfaen.com.

Gwener 15 Mehefin 7yn

Sadwrn 16 Mehefin 2:30yp ac am 7yn

Llanfest

Heol Llidard, St Mary Hill,

"Llanfest" returns for another fun filled day of live music, entertainment, food, drink, craft stalls and charity stalls, with live music carrying on into the evening.

www.langanvillagehall.co.uk or
www.facebook.com/LanganAndStMaryHillVillageHall

Saturday 16th June

2pm

Llanfest

Heol Llidard, Eglwys Fair y Mynydd

Mae "Llanfest" nol fwyddyn yma am ddiwrnod llawn hwyl gyda cherddoriaeth, adloniant, bwyd, stondinau crefft, stondinau elusau, a cherddoriaeth byw yn para mewn i'r nos!

www.langanvillagehall.co.uk neu
www.facebook.com/LanganAndStMaryHillVillageHall

Mercher 16 Mehefin

2yp

Duck Race

Y Bont Faen Primary School

Starts at Filco shop bridge followed by the Summer Fayre between 1 - 3pm. With plenty of stalls, games, a Bouncy Castle and BBQ - free entry. Entrance through park/front gate.

www.ybontfaen.com

Saturday 16th June

12 noon

Ras Hwyaidd

Ysgol Gynradd y Bont Faen

Yn dechrau ar bwys pont y siop Filco, ac i ddilyn bydd yna Ffair Haf rhwng 1-3yp gyda lot o stondinau, gemau, castell bownsio a BBQ. Mynediad am ddim. Cewch fynediad trwy y parc/gat ffyrnt.

www.ybontfaen.com

Sul 16 Mehefin

12yp

Edwardian Centenary Garden Party

Llanfair Primary School St Mary's Church

All welcome
Tel: 01446 772245

Saturday 7 July

2 - 7pm

Parti Gardd Canmlyddiant Edwardaidd

Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair

Croeso i bawb
Ffôn: 01446 772245

Sadwrn 7 Gorffennaf

2yp - 7yn

Llandow Village Summer Fete

Llandow Village Hall

Traditional village fete activities
Tel: 01656 890737

Saturday 14 July

2pm

Ffair Haf Pentref Llandow

Neuadd Bontref Llandow

Ffair pentref traddodiadol gyda gweithgareddau
Ffôn: 01656 890737

Sadwrn 14 Gorffennaf

2yp



CROWDS GREET THE OLYMPIC FLAME ON A HISTORIC DAY FOR THE TOWN

Photographs by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

**Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:**

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telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

'A once in a lifetime occasion' – that is how the appearance of the Olympic Flame in the Vale has been described, and the crowds of onlookers proved the point.

The flame's Vale journey started at Eastbrook Station in Dinas Powys at 7am on Saturday, May 26.

It made a 10-minute journey though the village, before restarting with fresh runners at Cardiff Road in Barry.

There were large crowds along the route – Holton Road, Broad Street, Barry Island, Park Crescent, Jenner Road and Colcot Road.

It finished its tour of the town on Port Road East and the Olympic Flame team then moved onto Bridgend in the afternoon.

Among the Vale medal hopefuls in the Olympics are swimmer David Davies from Barry, cyclist Nicole Cooke from Wick and tri-athlete Helen Jenkins from Llantwit Major.

You can view an eight minutes You Tube video at <http://youtu.be/u-wpkIVX4Zc>.



Photographs by DEREK BOOTH

derek.booth@virgin.net
www.deebie-imaging.com



WELSH FOOTBALL COACH DROPS IN TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM PUPILS



ABOVE: Chris Coleman holds a question and answer session with years 7 and 8.

LAST month, Wales football manager Chris Coleman visited Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

The school held a question and answer session with Chris before he was photographed with the school football teams.

The pupils enjoyed Chris' honesty, integrity and charisma in answering the questions asked.

Gymnastics success

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg's floor and vault mixed team are the current Welsh champions.

The team went on to compete in the British Schools competition on Sunday May 13.

This is the first time the school competed at this level in this field.

Members of the team are: Ffion Byrne, Finlay Haswell, Iwan Mephram, Rhidian Mephram and Emyr Byrne. We wish them all the best of luck for the competition!

South Wales Spelling Bee

THE four winners of the year-7 French spelling bee competition went to Ysgol Bryn Gwyn who were in Llanelli to compete at the south Wales regional final.

Brennig Davies, Elin Alexander, Manon Wiliam and Beth Humphreys all did superbly on the day.

Brennig came first and Beth came fourth in the competition, and both will now go on to compete in the Welsh Final to be held later this term. We



BASKETBALL FOR WALES
RECENTLY, Meirin Evans of year-11 represented Wales by playing for the national under-16 basketball team in Dublin against Ireland. (See picture above).
Unfortunately, the Welsh team lost by 90 points to 46. Here are some other pictures of Meirin in competition.

wish them both the very best of luck!

BRENNIG A BETH



Chris Coleman with year-9 football team.



Chris Coleman with year-7 football team.



ABOVE:
Chris Coleman
with year-10 football team.



Carfan Floor and Vault - The floor and vault mixed team that were crowned Welsh Champions.



ABOVE:
Chris Coleman
with the year-8 football team.



LEFT:
The Welsh and Irish basketball teams pose for a photo together.

Mayor's role is a 'dream come true' for this Llangeinor girl

RIGHT:
The new Bridgend county borough mayor – Coun Marlene Thomas.

FOLLOWING her recent inauguration as Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Marlene Thomas has a busy year ahead of her – and she thinks that the role is a 'dream come true'.

She said: "As a girl born and bred in Llangeinor, never in my wildest dreams did I think I would one day be Mayor of Bridgend county borough!"

"I am so proud to have been elected to represent the area, and promise to do my very best to promote this wonderful place that we live in."

"One of the first things I want to do as Mayor is to thank those who are involved in charity work, or who help to improve the quality of life for people with challenging problems. I never cease to be



amazed by their enthusiasm, energy and commitment.

"In my previous role as deputy Mayor, I was fortunate to meet many interesting people from all walks of life, many of whom were unsung heroes who volunteer their time to raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves."

A particular highlight

involved meeting Terry Waite, the Church of England envoy who spent 1,763 days as a hostage in Beirut.

Mayor Thomas said: "It was a privilege to meet such an amazing man in the course of my duties. He spoke movingly about his time in captivity, not once maligning his captors."

During her year in office, Mayor Thomas will focus on local schools and businesses.

She said: "The range of talent that we have in Bridgend is amazing. It's important that we ensure our local children have a flying start to their education and life skills, and the recent addition of some wonderful new schools in the area will play a huge role in helping us achieve this."

"I also want to visit local businesses throughout the county borough, both large and small, as they all play an essential role in providing employment and bringing prosperity to the area."

Mayor Thomas has also thanked her predecessor, Coun Chris Michaelides, as well as her own deputy for the forthcoming year, Coun Clive James.

Outgoing Mayor, Coun Michaelides, said: "I have enjoyed my year as Mayor and have had the pleasure and privilege of taking part in some memorable events."

"These have included hosting the Justice of the Peace 650th anniversary, attending the Royal Garden Party, welcoming new British citizens to the area and many other events, which have revealed the wonderful work carried out by staff and volunteers in all corners of the borough."

The charities that Mayor Thomas will support during her year of office will be announced soon.

DOG SHOW BOOSTS EISTEDDFOD FUNDS



The best in show was a Newfoundland from Pencoed.



The best puppy was (fittingly) a corgi in the Jubilee year!



The looks most like its owner category needed some audience participation.

A COMPANION dog show was held recently by the Show Dog Society, to raise money for the National Eisteddfod at Llandow this August.

A spokesperson said of the event at The Gathering Place, St Athan: "We had a lovely day. There were people and their dogs from the village and also people from a little further afield."

"With some of our club members – Bridgend & District KA – providing the catering and others organising the show itself, we were kept busy."

"Photographs show that there were dogs of all shapes and sizes. With this being an Eisteddfod fundraiser, and the Queen's Jubilee coming up, it seemed quite fitting that the eventual Best Puppy In Show went to a Corgi!"

"Best in Show was the fabulous Newfoundland from Pencoed. In such wonderful condition, this was a popular choice."

"Other photos show the fun classes: Waggy Tail, Handled by a Gent, Pretty Bitch – a very pretty Bernese Mountain Dog who was the Eventual Best Novelty In Show – and the most popular class – Looks Most Like its Owner. The Stewards called for a bit of audience participation in this class."

"Our thanks to everyone for taking part."

The next fundraising show is on Sunday, June 17 in Bryncae Community Centre, Llanharan. All proceeds to The Sandville, Porthcawl. Contact: bridgendka@aol.com for fore information.



The waggiest tail category produced some happy looking dogs!



LEFT:
The pretty bitch was a Bernese Mountain Dog that also won best novelty in show.

Vickery play
VALLEYS playwright Frank Vickery's smash hit comedy *Granny Annie* is at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl from June 21-23 (7.30pm).

An amateur dramatic company is seen preparing for the opening of their musical production of *Annie*, which promises to be the biggest theatrical disaster of all time!

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk
You can also find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter -
facebook.com/gemnews or @gem_news

Financial advice adds up for local students

BRIDGEND students have been learning how to handle their money in a sensible manner after taking advice from the local authority.

Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Trading Standards team and the Citizens Advice Bureau have organised more than 40 'financial capabilities' sessions at Bridgend College and Porthcawl Comprehensive School to educate young people aged 16-18 about a range of financial topics.

Covering themes such as 'Getting More for Your Money', 'Understanding Credit' and 'Saving Money', the project has already provided more than 750 young people with essential information about dealing with finance.

As well as discovering ways of budgeting effectively in today's world, students have learned about issues such as shopping safely online and the various methods of paying for goods or services.

The sessions have also covered the dangers of borrowing money from unlicensed money

lenders, or 'loan sharks', as well as the problem of purchasing goods from websites which appear to be UK-based, but are actually located in other parts of the world such as Asia or north America.

Helen Picton, service manager for Trading Standards, feels that this type of education is extremely valuable for young people.

She said: "We are living in tough economic times, and many of our youngsters have limited knowledge on financial matters."

"By learning about issues such as mortgages, interest rates and buying on credit, we hope that the students will be able to make better informed choices as they become adults and find their responsibilities increasing."

"Most of the students will have seen a finance agreement for the first time during these sessions, and hopefully this will help create confident consumers within our communities."

Local schools are being invited to request further lectures on managing finances for sixth form year groups by contacting Trading Standards on 01656 643478.

Mayor looks back on a (very) mixed year!

LAST year's Mayor of Porthcawl, Barbara Stubbs, contributed a regular column in this newspaper for most of her year in office.

There was, however, an enforced break when she was involved in a serious accident over the Christmas holidays.

Now that her year is over, she talked to The GEM about what was a very mixed year.

She said: "I think what surprised me the most – and in the end I was just amazed – was the sheer number of organisations in Porthcawl who do so much to enrich the town. When I sat down



ABOVE: Barbara Stubbs and her husband Bill on their last official day as mayor and consort, handing over the chains to Coun Alana Davies and her husband, Brian.

and counted the groups I had met it was more than 60, and they are full of people who are not interested in publicity. They are simply involved because they want to good things."

Lists are always awkward, because of the risk of missing someone

out, but Barbara was very impressed with the work of the local Cancer Research volunteers, the Townswomen's Guild, Inner Wheel, the Lions Club, and Barnardo's. Of those, she will always have a soft spot for Barnardo's because her father was a founder member of the Porthcawl fundraising committee.

One of her last official engagements was opening the annual Lions May Fayre, and she said: "My husband Bill and I were amazed at the hours that members put in. Yes, there is a social side, but people in Porthcawl should recognise how hard they work for the community."

Another local organisation that made a big impact on the mayoral couple was Crossroads, which helps carers in the town – in particular young carers.

Barbara said: "Bill feels strongly about the position that young carers find themselves in. Porthcawl has a reputation in the borough for being well off, but with a high number of elderly people, it means that there are a lot of people who need help."

Various engagements at the Sandville Self-Help Centre have had a big impact, too. Again, the fact that volunteers do so much is a big factor, but her year in office brought home to the mayor just how much is done there.

She said: "Every age group is helped at Sandville. Young disabled children can use the pool and the play area, while at the same time elderly people in a poor state of health can be looked after and given relaxation therapies – by therapists who give their time free."

She was also impressed by the work that Scout and Guide leaders do with young people in the town.

Away from the voluntary sector, the mayor was impressed with the staff at the Grand Pavilion, and believes that the venue is vital for the town.

She said: "Huge progress has been made at the Grand Pavilion, and the staff all work so hard. I think things start-

ed to improve under Ceri Davies, and Mark Phillips is carrying it on. "They are all so keen to make it work."

A key part of any town mayor's job is to highlight the work of local organisations and charities, and this makes the year in office an enjoyable experience.

However, Barbara's year was interrupted by the aftermath of a car crash when she and Bill were being driven by a family member in Sheffield over the Christmas break.

A head-on collision left her with broken bones and internal injuries, and she had the nightmare experience of remaining conscious in the car, in agony, while emergency services worked to cut her free.

It is hard to find positives in such an experience, but Bill and Barbara were stunned by the number of get well cards that arrived as she recuperated in hospital in Mansfield. She said: "When I was well enough to return to Porthcawl, both the Rotary Club and Phil Rixon offered to come and chauffeur us home."

They had not been in their own car when the crash happened, and it transpired that Bill was able to drive home, but the offers from Porthcawl meant a lot.

She still has vivid flashbacks to that ordeal. Bill's injuries were not so serious in comparison, but the broken sternum he sustained still causes him problems.

However, Barbara's troubles were not over when she returned home. She said: "All the time I was in hospital in Mansfield I was getting a lot of pain from my neck."

"The staff said it was whiplash, but it didn't get any better when I was home. In the end, we decided I should visit a consultant and his X-ray showed that I had three fractured vertebrae, and that they were in danger of collapsing."

"His instructions were to be operated on as soon as possible and to stay very still, because the spinal cord was in danger of being trapped."

"I was terrified."

In the end, her consultant took her to the Heath Hospital early one morning and said she was to stay there until a theatre was available. She was eventually seen in the late afternoon. Barbara said: "He inserted plates to keep the vertebrae apart and now, my recuperation is going according to plan."

The accident meant that she missed a major part of her mayoral year, leading her deputy, Coun Alana Davies, to suggest an unusual course of action.

Barbara said: "In Porthcawl, the standard practice is for the deputy mayor to become mayor the following year. Alana said that she was prepared to stand aside so that I could have a complete year in the post."

She emphasised that it would not have been her and Alana's decision. The matter would still have had to be voted on by the council.

However, that decision was taken out of their hands when Barbara lost her town council seat in the recent elections.

Reflecting on the happier times of her year in office, Barbara said: "We have been to some wonderful events, and some of the shows at the Grand Pavilion were tremendous."

"Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of *The Sound of Music* was terrific, and I was really impressed with the Bridge Youth Theatre's work."

"Their show, *Billy – The Musical*, was produced to an incredibly high standard, with great performances from young local actors."

Finally, another aspect of any mayor's year is staging events that will benefit the mayor's civic fund – a charity that distributes money to local good causes.

In the coming weeks, the committee that administers it will arrive at a final figure, and the mayor's final act will be to distribute the cash.

Barbara concluded: "I really would like to thank all the members of the civic fund committee, who have worked so hard to benefit local charities during my year."

Porthcawl woman's spiritual journey

In the footsteps of the Spanish pilgrims



Dawn Cole (on right with backpack), with wellwishers from The Bay restaurant, Porthcawl.

(Photograph by Donald Williams at donsterchef@yahoo.com).

A PORTHCAWL woman is taking on the challenge of a 790km walk to raise money for Ty Hafan.

Tomorrow (June 1) Dawn Cole will be setting out to follow in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims and will walk from St Jean Pied de Port in southern France to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain.

Dawn told The GEM that it was a "spiritual journey" and she hopes that people will support her efforts by donating to Ty Hafan, the Sully hospice for life-limited children.

She said: "Anyone can follow my journey by asking to friend me on facebook, and the Justgiving website is attached to my profile."

Donations can also be made at the Porthcawl seafood restaurant, The Bay (telephone 01656 785575).

Thieves steal lead from church roof

POLICE are appealing for information after lead was stolen from the roof of Llansantffraid church on Heol Persondy sometime between 9am on Friday May 18 and 9am, Friday May 25.

PC Mark Child, who is investigating the incident at Aberkenfig, said: "The area where the lead was stolen from cannot be seen from the ground, and the theft was only discovered when the roof was found to be leaking following a downpour of rain."

"It is estimated that the cost of replacing the lead and the labour charges will be many thousands of pounds. This money will have to come out of funds that have been set aside for other functions that the church provides for the community."

"I am appealing to anyone who saw any suspicious people or vehicles in and around the church at the relevant time to come forward," he added.

Contact Police on 101 or Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.

£1,556,100 for education of needy pupils in Bridgend

SCHOOLS in Bridgend are to receive £1,556,100 funding for the least well-off pupils, First Minister Carwyn Jones has announced.

The new £32.4 million a year 'pupil deprivation grant' will provide practical action to help reduce the impact of poverty on educational attainment – 100 per cent of the funding goes directly to school budgets.

Schools in Bridgend will receive £1,556,100 from the fund for this financial year as part of the Assembly's drive against poverty.

"Each school will receive an allocation according to the number of pupils aged between 5 and 15 who are eligible for free school meals which will equate

to an additional £450 per eligible pupil," the First Minister said.

"This new money is a major boost for our schools and has one clear aim – to reduce the link between deprivation and educational attainment."

"The Welsh Government is taking practical action to deliver better educational opportunities for our most disadvantaged children."

"We will work closely with schools to make sure this grant makes a real difference to the life chances of those who need extra support."

"My government is deeply committed to making sure everyone, no matter what their background, can reach their full potential," added Mr Jones, who is also the AM for Bridgend.

Man's compensation from council after an accident in work

A COUNCIL worker who suffered permanent damage to his eye in a workplace accident has received £30,000 in compensation after help from his trade union, UNISON.

His solicitors told The GEM that Jason Symmonds, 41, from Pencoeed, Bridgend, needed surgery after an industrial pressure hose hit him in his right eye, splitting his eye ball and causing him to suffer a detached iris.

A Unison spokeswoman said: "As part of his role as a mechanic for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Jason was asked to look at the pressure hose."

"Unknown to him the hose section of the machine was switched on so when he turned on the machine's pump the hose flicked up and hit him. The hose was later found to be defective."

His injuries meant he had to take six months off work and then needed an additional week off work later to undergo surgery to remove a cataract which had formed over his eye.

The spokeswoman continued: "Surgery has improved his sight, but he still has a dilated pupil, which means he cannot drive at night."

"He also has problems seeing objects up close meaning that he has difficulties reading and judging distances. Glasses do not resolve his sight problems but he has to wear sunglasses when he is outdoors, even if it is not sunny."

Following the accident Mr Symmonds contacted his trade union, UNISON, for advice. UNISON instructed its lawyers, Thompsons Solicitors, to investigate a claim for compensation.

The council admitted 85 per cent liability and settled the claim out of court. Mr Symmonds, who still works at the council, but now in a supervisory role, said: "The weeks following the accident were extremely difficult."

"I wasn't allowed to lie down to sleep because of the risk of blood developing at the back of my eye ball. For two weeks, I couldn't see anything through the damaged eye and I feared the worse."

"My sight has improved since the operation but it will never be the same again."

Margaret Thomas, head of UNISON in Wales added: "Mr Symmonds suffered a lot of pain as a result of this accident, as well as lasting damage to his eye."

"Clearly, a more robust system for checking equipment should have been in place. Employers have a duty to make sure their staff are safe at work."

The GEM asked RCT Council for a comment but this had not been received as we went to press.

Jubi-gee excitement!

EXCITEMENT is building towards Saturday's start of Jubilee week with Porthcawl festooned in more than 1,000 metres of bunting.

Churches are preparing celebration lunches, and stilt walkers and tight rope walkers are practising for Saturday's opening at Porthcawl RFC, South Road. Porthcawl Choral Society, led by musical director Barrie Wilson, is performing the special Porthcawl Diamond Jubilee song.

The words were written by Mr Wilson to music from Gilbert and

Sullivan, starting: "Tis a glorious thing to celebrate the reign of our Royal Queen," and ending: "Let Porthcawl shout and cheer the reign of our gracious Queen."

The entertainment on the Promenade, 'The Party on the Prom', on June 5, is also taking shape. The 'Ukelele Stompers' band is expected to play on the special open top bus, whilst Punch and Judy returns to the Prom in Porthcawl for the first time in 60 years.

Young and old can still enter the 'Waterless Swimming Gala' by ringing Gary Victor (01656 783491) to register.

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Bridgend College triumph in English colleges football league



Bridgend College Football Academy players celebrate their 4-0 win over Merthyr.

BRIDGEND College Football Academy clinched the English Colleges League title in style, beating a strong Merthyr side 4-0.

Bridgend's team entered the game knowing that a draw or victory away from home would bring the title to the borough.

Wearing their blue and yellow striped kit, Bridgend passed the ball exceptionally well in the blazing heat, forcing the hard-working Merthyr team to defend in numbers.

George Daly and Liam McCarthy dominated the midfield area, feeding the outstanding Jack Delve and Luke Dawes on both flanks of the pitch.

As Bridgend searched for the opening goal, Merthyr broke

away against the run of play and forced an acrobatic save from goalkeeper Luke Jones.

Bridgend reacted and continued to pass the ball around with a brand of football that has served them so well over the season.

Passing the ball through midfield and stretching the Merthyr team, the visitors showed no sign of nerves.

As the game opened up, striker Nathan Price took advantage of a Merthyr defensive mistake to see the ball bounce into an empty net.

Eventually, Bridgend persistence was rewarded with a second goal as a fine move down the right allowed Jack Delve to deliver a cross that reached Luke Dawes at the far post, who side-footed the ball home.

Nathan Price scored his second goal of the

game, and Bridgend's third, and the celebrations began amongst the subs and coaching staff.

Merthyr continued to work hard but with a clever passage of play, Luke Dawes calmly scored the fourth and final goal.

As Jason Perry, head of the Football Academy at Bridgend College, explains: "The students deserve this success and the rewards that come with hard work. They have developed as people and players during their time at the College, and have a far more determined and mature attitude towards their studies and training."

"A legacy has been left by the players involved this season and a challenge waits for all those that follow them to wear the Bridgend College football kit."

Individual players have also benefited from the full-time training and education programme, with Andre Griffiths, Kieran Harmon and Nathan Renfree selected to play for both Welsh Colleges and the Welsh Schools

international sides. All three players provided consistent performances through a busy football schedule.

The college are currently recruiting for

their Football Academy. Anybody interested in joining should contact Bridgend College on 01656 302600.

Ron lands hole in one for P&K

PYLE and Kenfig and Southerndown are two of the top courses in south Wales.

Both are difficult, particularly in the wind that is a semi-permanent feature at each venue.

The courses are free draining and remain open when many others are water-logged.

In addition to the normal rivalry present in any such competition, there is an extra edge when teams from these two clubs clash.

Throughout the year, many thousands of golf matches are played with no one having that rarest



Ron Walters.

of breeds – a hole-in-one on a par three – which is effectively an eagle.

However, on the recent match between these Veterans' Sections, there were two!

Glyn Watts Jones, Southerndown, had one on the 12th hole, one of the longest of the par threes.

Ron Walters, P&K, enjoyed his on the fourth hole. Ron collects holes-in-one like a philatelist collects rare stamps, and is currently adding to his "collection" at the rate of approximately one per year.

Who won the match? The official line is that it was an "honourable half" – if I reported the true results, I would lose one set of good golfing friends!

IG

Phoenix celebrate end of the season



Hannah Seward, top try scorer.



Most improved player, Kathryn Stonehouse. PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK

PENCOED PHOENIX recently held their third presentation night.

A successful season ended with second place in Division 1 league – a triumph for such a young, developing team – may the success continue next season.

With thanks to coaches, supporters, players and all involved in the Phoenix, next up for Phoenix is Shane Williams' beach rugby in Swansea on July 21; all welcome to join us on beach!

Contact us on 01656860152 or email: pencoedphoenix@hotmail.co.uk.

Awards: club captain: Marina Newth; most improved player:



Captain Marina Newth and coach Adam Halse.

Kathryn Stonehouse; most promising player: Amie Stevens; top try scorer: Hannah Seward.

Merit player: Katie Murphy; players' player: Natalie O'Shea;

supporter's player of year: Lowri Reeves; player of year: Natalie O'Shea; best supporter: Gwyn Morgan; club person: Emlyn Roberts.

JH

Pencoed rugby league boys continue with their winning ways

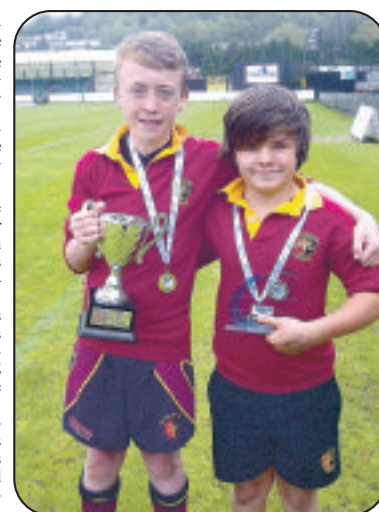


LAST year, Pencoed Comprehensive School reported the success of the newly formed year-7 Rugby League team as they became Welsh Rugby League champions.

Now in year-8, the boys retained their 'champions' status when they beat St Joseph's School, Newport, 32-14 at the Gnull in Neath.

The whole school is proud of the team's achievement, and in particular Mr Ian Poley, PE teacher, who coached the team again this year.

He said: "The continuing support of the Wales Rugby League staff has been marvellous and instrumental in maintaining the boys' interest in rugby league. The year-8 team have made the school very proud."



Thomas Reffell (captain) with the Cup, and Liam Walters with the man of the match award.

Under-12s on winning track at Maesteg

BRIDGEND Town CC under-12s got back to winning ways against Celtic Maesteg under-12s at Newbridge Fields on a lovely evening for cricket.

An accurate Bridgend bowling attack restricted the away side to 221 with extras of only 26.

Bridgend Town then reached 287, resulting in a convincing win by 66 runs (pairs format).

Bridgend's wickets were taken by E Biebrach (two), S Willicombe (two), C Hart (one) and E Rees

(one).

The batting was once again led by E Biebrach (10) and E Rees (nine), with good contributions by G Davies (seven), C Hart (six), M Hobby (six) and J Hayes (four).

Special mention for O Johns, who bowled two maiden overs, and E Biebrach for an all-round performance, the game was played in an excellent spirit.

Team: E Biebrach, G Davies, H Evans, C Hart, J Hayes, M Hobby, O Johns, H Jones, E Rees, S Willicombe.

JH

Bulls emerge with victory

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40)

And more misery was heaped on the visitors with Dowding and Gareth David both claiming their second scores, and Howells and David kicking a goal each.

The final say went to man of the match Charles Stevenson, who crashed through a number of tackles to score and cap off a fine individual performance.

The Demons battled valiantly throughout

and deserved more than two tries, and they had one of the best players on the pitch in Rogerson, but the Blue Bulls were the much stronger side on the day with many debutants shining, including Dave Upton and Dai Stone.

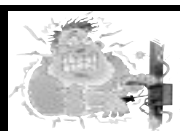
The match also saw Bulls player-coach Craig Fox come off the bench and become the only player to represent the team in every one of the Bulls ten seasons.

JM



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Family Notices

Alexander Margaret Elizabeth 'Maggie'

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on May 26, Maggie, well-known councillor, former Vice of Glamorgan Mayor and Council Leader.

Devoted partner to Yvonne and loving sister-in-law of Brian, Maggie will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry until her service at All Saints Church, Barry on Thursday June 7 at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park, Port Road East, Barry.

No flowers, please - donations in memory of Maggie may be made at the service to Atal Y Fro (formerly Womens' Aid), of which Maggie was a great supporter.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay J Ellis at Park Funerals - 01446 421212.

COPLEY Richard

Pat, Terrie, Jamie and Oliver would like to thank everyone for all the affection, support, cards and flowers we have received since the sudden and unexpected death of our beloved Richard.

With a very special thank you to the residents of St Mary Church whose continuous support has helped tremendously.

Another special thank you to the Rev David Boulton for his help, kindness and compassion.

We would also like to thank Michael and Jackie of the Blacksmiths Arms Llanmaes for the magnificent and much talked about buffet following Richard's funeral.

To quote the message in nearly every card received, 'Richard was a truly kind, generous and lovely man, a real gentleman.'

We will love and miss him always

BAIN VENN Julia

Peacefully on Wednesday May 23, 2012, Julie of Millfield Drive, Cowbridge.

Much loved wife of Victor, devoted 'Mom' to Ashley, Jo and Nic, loved and respected mother-in-law of Nick and Lorraine and an adored 'Dee Dee' to her grandchildren Molly and Sam.

Funeral Wednesday June 6, 2012. Friends please meet for service at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. No flowers by request, but donations for Cancer Research Wales may be sent to Gareth Watts, Owen E Jones & Co Ltd, Zoar Chapel of Rest, Maesteg, CF34 9UT. Tel: 01656 733167.

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CORKREY Thomas John (Jack)

Peacefully on May 26 at Penrhos Stanley Hospital, Holyhead, Anglesey, Jack, aged 89 years of Nicholl Court, Llantwit Major.

Beloved husband of Mary, loving father of Mair, dear father-in-law of Ray, grandfather to Marianne, and the late Joanne and great grandfather to Kelly, Aaron and Jake. Dear brother to Billy, brother-in-law to David, Jean and Mair. Jack will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Friday June 8th at 3.15pm, where all please meet.

Family flowers only, please.

All enquiries to WA Brown & Son 01446 792489.

THOMAS David Arthur

Peacefully on May 24, at his home in Gileston, David, dearest husband of Eira, devoted father of Linda, father-in-law of Nick and loving grandfather of Euan and Rhian, will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Thursday May 31, service 2pm at Gileston Church followed by interment in Gileston Cemetery.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Safe Home for Unwanted Animals (SHUA), c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhooose, CF62 3DZ.

McALLEN (nee James) Pauline

Devoted sister of Billy, Anne, Rosemary, June, Gill and Jenn, sister-in-law of Sue, Graham, Smudger, George & Geoff, auntie, great-auntie and great-great-auntie.

Loved by all and will be sadly missed.

McAllen Pauline

Suddenly on May 26th, Pauline loving mother of Helen and Stephen, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral arrangements will follow.

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern.

I, ALI HUSSAINI, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a Premises Licence at 13 Vere Street, Barry CF63 2HX known as Romeo Pizza.

The application is for permission to supply alcohol from 4pm-12am on Monday to Saturday, and 4pm-11pm on Sunday.

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Mr Ali Hussaini
21st May, 2012.

Birthdays

Happy 18th Birthday Lewis Price

31st May

Love you loads, Mum,
Dad, Abby, Connor
and all your family
X X X



GOTCHA!

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Wanderers Seconds enjoy day in the sun

AS the summer sun sizzled on a scorching hot day at Hayes Point, the battle-hardened Second XI enjoyed the best day of their season so far.

Skipper Ellis, standing in for Tom Ridgwell, strode to the wicket and tossed the coin with opposing skipper Rob King. On winning the toss, St Fagans surprisingly elected to field with the track looking a better to bat on.

Young opening bowlers Davies and Fahim bowled with pace and control to experienced Wanderers openers Sawyer and Coleman. Coleman, having looked comfortable, was dismissed caught behind for 16 and this brought birthday boy Burgin to the crease.

Burgin, reveling in his number three role, batted steadily before unleashing several splendid cover drives which brought the assembled crowd to their feet. Sawyer, meanwhile, was quietly composing a masterful innings at the other end timing his shots to perfection.

Burgin attempted one shot too many and was bowled for 30, and as he trudged back to the pavilion he contemplated on what could have been.

It was time for Ellis to enter the fray and after a second drinks break, Sawyer unleashed a barrage of heavy blows with four's

and sixes prominent.

It looked like a maiden Wanderers 100 was on the cards, but this was not to be as he departed for a well crafted 89.

Andy Gallagher saw the score past 200 with a belligerent innings of 4.4 made up of ten four's, before being bowled.

Nimesh Reddy continued the run fest with a quick-fire 46 not out, while Ellis played the Boycott role with 35 not out as the innings closed on 293 for 4 after 45 overs.

With a sumptuous tea enjoyed by the masses it was time for the Wanderers to defend their total as the sun's rays beat down and the sea glistened in the background.

The early season rain was a distant memory as the Wanderers' quintessential ground looked like a picture postcard as a host of former players watched on with interest at the current crop.

St Fagans opened with Charlie Maynard, brother of Matthew, and C Franklin. They set out their intentions from the off with Maynard ruthless on anything short. Ashish Chatap bowled with verve and zip and deservedly took the first two wickets, a sharp caught and bowled and a plum LBW.

Maynard was playing a shot a ball innings and was dropped three times before change bowler Nandan uprooted his off stick out

of the ground, a sight to behold for any bowler.

This key wicket left the Wanderers firmly in control. It was time now to bring the wily old fox Phil John onto bowl at the Hospital end, and his intelligent off spin accounted for the middle order.

With Phil on the brink of a fiver the batsmen offered a sharp caught and bowled which the bowler dropped.

However, of more concern was the shoulder injury that Phil picked up diving for the catch, and unable to carry on bowling he left the field for treatment.

Ellis took over the remainder of the over and was soon dispatched for six by young Fahim. However, revenge was sweet as Ellis caught a skier off Hughes' bowling to secure the Wanderers victory by 139 runs.

A great all-round performance with everyone contributing, the only slight disappointment on the day was the seven dropped catches.

However, with the 2nd XI winning two in a row and strong availability, the season is now taking shape, and skipper Ridgwell will return from Vegas with several selection dilemmas.

Many thanks go to Jane Richards, Gerry Richards and Mike Ashton for tea, groundsmen and match duties.

ME

Young footballers run for team



The young players exceeded all expectations when taking to the Barry Athletic ground to raise money for the under-11s side.

RECENTLY, Barry Athletic Football Club held a sponsored fun run at their ground to raise much-needed funds for the under-11s football team.

On a beautiful Sunday morning, and with the emphasis definitely on effort as opposed to fun, the team and the three coaches attempted to complete at least three laps of the perimeter of

the ground.

Undeterred by the challenge that lay ahead, all of the boys set off in good spirits, buoyed by the fact that they were going to make mincemeat out of the coaches.

The boys exceeded expectations by completing at least four laps, with many going on to complete six and even seven laps, putting the coaches to shame (who only completed three each).

The perimeter of the ground is approximately

420 metres, and between them the team managed to cover a total distance of 20 miles! One player even completed his run whilst nursing a broken collar bone.

In total, the players raised a magnificent £742 with a special mention going to three players in particular who managed to raise over £100 each.

The management team would like to praise the magnificent effort of the players and would also like to thank

everyone; friends, family, work colleagues, who contributed towards sponsoring the boys.

In particular, thanks to the ex-Barry Athletic FC senior players and management – your contribution was very much appreciated.

The management team would also like to thank Tony Mulhern of (Tema) Penarth Industrial Services once again for his continual support.

DW

Ladies thank King Billy!

WESTEND Ladies Netball Club would like to say a big thank you to Dave and Joanne, owners of the King William IV, for sponsoring us this year.

Both teams received new netball dresses and hoods ready for the summer league, currently being played at Colcot Sports Hall on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

The teams recently held a fundraiser charity night at the Billy for CLIC Sargent where a massive total of £400 was raised.

Alongside this was another charity night, also held and supported



by The King William IV, where a local man, Micky, shaved his head and successfully raised £500 for the Marie Curie cancer charity.

We will be holding many more fundraising events at the Billy over

the coming months, so keep your eyes peeled for what's coming up!

Westend Ladies netball team now have a

Facebook page set up, and the team's progress during the summer and winter league will be available.

KR

Rhosee under-13s end season with big win

RHOSE under-13s were looking to finish the season in style against Wenvoe and soon settled into their passing game.

Jay Coles found himself in space and threaded a ball through to Ryan Hughes, whose strike into the bottom corner gave Rhosee the lead.

Daniel Cope used his speed to set up Cameron Leach whose calm finish increased the lead for Rhosee.

Wenvoe played some good attacking football and were unlucky not to get on the score sheet, but keeper Matt Cottingham was in top form and looked impenetrable.

Edward Thomas and

Patrick O'Carroll remained focussed in defence and looked to push forward at every opportunity.

Josh Brown was solid in midfield and after winning a challenge, released Mitch McCabe, who scored with a left foot strike.

Joe Hopkins and Jordan Holt worked tirelessly and Dylan White always looked composed on the ball.

Both Cameron Leach and Mitch McCabe grabbed their second of the game and it was a fitting end when defender Harry Morgan-Grant was on the end of a whipped in cross by Lee Bartlett to score Rhosee's final goal of the season for a 6-0 victory.

MB

CADOXTON finished their section of the Carruthers with a success at Sully where three rinks came out on top with one losing.

The rink skipped by Howard Craven was the unfortunate one when they trailed by 10 shots, against a rink skipped by Ian Patterson, before getting on the scoreboard. The remainder of the game was more even, by scoring 13 shots against 15, to lose by 12.

Jim Davies had Chris Williams in opposition and in a close game, all the way throughout, the scores were tied at 12-12 after 12 ends.

Sully scored the next single, which put them on 13, where they stayed for the next four ends whilst losing six shots. A recovery put them back in front by one shot, which was cancelled out with three singles to finish.

Graham Brown had a seemingly difficult task against Brian Griffiths, but started with a 6-1 lead after six ends. Four singles reduced the advantage to one.

The following five ends increased this to three, before Graham trailed the jack for a 'six' and a 'four', which opened a large gap.

However, Brian came back into the game with 10 shots over three ends, including a 'five'. A 'three' and single finished the game with Cadoxton in the ascendancy.

Don Kuhnell had a mixed start against opposing skip Carl Best. A four-shot advantage after three ends disappeared by the eighth, to a deficit of four.

After four more ends the score was 6-12. However, with Don having an inspiring afternoon, a good run during the next four ends produced 11 shots.

Three singles were dropped but two 'three's to finish, with the other rinks already finished, ensured the overall match result went in Cadoxton's favour.

Scores: L Adams, D Evans, W Vaughan, H Craven - 13-25 - A Kelly, G Pryer, HL Jones, I Patterson; P Ellis, G Solomon, L

Cundliffe, D Kuhnell - 23-15 - K Lewis, D Hotchkiss, J Best, C Best; T Bishop, I Dunbar, D Brook, G Brown - 24-17 - P Neale, C Michael, M Hardy, B Griffiths; D Tuck, S Clarke, L Davies, J Davies - 21-19 - A Rees, G John, D Edwards, C Williams.

Final score: 81-76.

Cadoxton 'A' v Murch - SVL

THE 'A' Side also came out on top when they hosted the re-arranged game with Murch in the SVL.

Gordon Davies' rink had Ian Heppinstall, making his bowls debut, as lead, and they were successful against Terry Mayor's rink. A 5-3 lead was gained by the home side before a 'four', 'one' and 'three' further enhanced it.

They were held for a brief spell on 13, whilst the gap was closed slightly, before continuing to build a comprehensive win.

In a stop-start match, Roy Harding trailed at 0-4, before a recovery gained the lead at 9-7. The opposition retaliated with 13 shots, including a 'six', to regain the advantage. Four singles to finish was not enough to catch up again.

Graham Garland's four took a 9-3 lead after eight ends against Derek Davies. The advantage was taken away with a 'four' and 'three'. However, 14 shots were scored with just four against in the remainder of the game for a home success.

Alex Turner's rink drew first blood against Phil Jenkins', but did not hold the advantage for long. Eight shots were conceded over the next four ends to build a lead that was continually increased throughout the game.

Scores: K Tanner, R Doble, R Cole, A Turner - 15-22 - G Pearce, D Perkins, B Frampton, P Jenkins; I Heppinstall, D Fanning, J Stewart, G Davies - 22-13 - R Hunter, I Roberts, B Marsh, T Mayor; G Powell, B Knight, M Curtis, R Harding - 13-21 - R Fudge, O May, L

Morton, G Russell; S Clements, L Little, J Sugden, G Garland - 23-14 - D Pateman, A Perry, M Williams, D Davies.

Final score: 73-70.

Cadoxton v B Plastics - Munro Cup

THE Munro Cup game played at Cadoxton was a close affair against B Plastics, with both sides winning on two rinks each. Even closer, the scores were tied after a recount.

Graham Brown was on top form and had a superb game to overcome his opposition, skipped by Malcolm Phillips. At the end of the game he praised his team, including Phil Ellis, who was playing in the unaccustomed position of third.

Gordon Davies was the other winning skip against Peter Oxenham, who included Alan Burdge, a past member of the Cadoxton Club. This win was despite losing a 'five' on two occasions, but a big 'seven' almost overcame this. A 'three' on the final end ensured the victory.

Don Kuhnell made a bad start against Keith Romans when he dropped a 'six' and 'five' on consecutive ends early in the game. This deficit was never recovered to lose by 12 shots.

Howard Craven skipped the other losing rink against Glyn Trickett. After leading 6-0, only three more singles were added for the home side.

Scores: B Knight, D Evans, P Ellis, G Brown - 27-10 - P Robbins, D Townsend, C Coomber, M Phillips; S Clements, D Fanning, R Cole, G Davies - 23-19 - M Morgan, A Burdge, B Buckingham, P Oxenham; J Stacey, S Clarke, J Sugden, D Kuhnell - 12-24 - C Clay, G Prance, W Hogg, K Romans; G Powell, G Solomon, J Stewart, H Craven - 9-18 - K Agins, D Lotus, G Currie, G Trickett.

Final score: 71-71.

DK

Dinas bowlers downed by seven shots

DINAS POWYS first side were disappointed that their PG1 fixture against Ystradfechan was postponed last Saturday.

Road and park closures enabling the Olympic Torch to proceed through Treorchy was the cause. Dinas second team, however, were at home to Ystradfechan seconds and contested a close game.

The early ends saw Dinas losing narrowly on three rinks but only three shots adrift on 10 ends. Two rinks up and two down on 15 ends saw Dinas seven shots down. Despite one rink

falling behind by 22 shots to nine, the Dinas deficit was only eight shots.

This proved too much for the Dinas team to claw back and the match ended with Dinas going down by seven shots: 70-77.

With two rinks up and one drawn, Dinas picked up a useful five points against a strong Ystradfechan side.

Dinas rink scores: G Leach, T Hurcom, N Giles, A Jones: 20-20; D James, J Cole, B Critcher, J Porter: 18-16; M Diment, M Seaford, D Ireland, M Edwards: 22-15; D Vowles, G Welch, P Marks, C Bates: 10-26.

AMD

Good day for the Llantwit Cavaliers

ON a sunny but blustery day at Windmill Lane, Ystradgynlais won the toss and elected to bat, based on the weather.

Ystradgynlais soon found themselves in trouble at 6 for 2 – no batsman seemed to settle at the crease and the Cavaliers seam attack created chances at regular intervals and soon had their opponents at 52 for 6.

With Griffiths, Cheal and Cousens all getting amongst the wickets, the visiting team struggled to 111 all out with Bradley Williams top scoring with 21.

Opening pair Julian Griffiths and Chris Cousens ignored the attempted sledging by the fielding side and took to the chase of runs rapidly.

With the pair scoring 53 and 56 respectively, Llantwit Cavaliers eased

to a 10-wicket victory. KD

SECONDS CRUISE TO WIN

SECOND XI Skipper Phil Harris won the toss and elected to bat on a summer's day made for cricket.

Phil Harris (14) was caught at mid-off with the score on 30, thereby bringing Phil Vincent (68) to the crease; together with Ed Pickford (79), a partner-

ship of 93 was put on before Ed was bowled by a ball that stayed low.

Phil was adjudged LBW in the last over of the innings as the Cavs closed on 220 for 6 off 40 overs, with Pete Lansdown still reminiscing about his baseball shot earlier in the innings.

Best bowling performance came from M Penhuw with 2 for 31.

M Williams (33 not out) and L Owen (20) top scored for

Ystradgynlais as they were bowled out for 116.

Dave Cheal (2 for 19), 15-year-old Lestyn Jones (three wickets), 13-year-old Sam Palmer (1 for 18) and 15-year-old Joe Jenkins (1 for 33), all took wickets in a good fielding performance.

Jonathan Ball was excellent in the field with his first game for the Cavs in seven years.

This week, the Cavs play Cimla in another league double header with the 2nd XI playing home, any support would be greatly appreciated and new members are always welcome to the club.

DC

Lions are the champions!

LIONS Clubs International organises the annual Five Nations event for boys under 14 years of age.

Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club sponsored the team who were led by their superb coaches Phil Clay and Russell Baker, who organised earlier victories over Frome, Highworth, Newquay and Billingshurst to reach the Final at Sutton Coldfield FC on Saturday May 26 against Radcliffe Borough Juniors, from Manchester.

For 30 minutes it was a close game with Radcliffe just edging possession; even so Llantwit went close to scoring on two occasions through Kristian Jones and Richard Stephens,



who both hit the bar with cracking shots.

Radcliffe continued to pose problems with quality crosses being delivered by their left winger.

However, as the first half progressed, Llantwit got stronger and just before half-time they scored two wonderful goals, firstly from a back heel from Gabriel Oram from a seemingly impossible angle, and then

Kyle Henderson direct from a corner. At half-time, Llantwit held a commanding 2-0 lead against very strong opposition.

Within 10 minutes of the restart, Llantwit scored again when the dangerous Richard Stephens rifled home a blistering left footer into the corner to give the goalkeeper no chance.

As Radcliffe now had no choice but to chase the game, Llantwit started to open up the opposition and created several good chances through the vibrant front three of Gabriel Oram, Will Perkins and Richard Stephens.

With support from the lightning quick Kristian Jones, Kyle Henderson and Luke Allison, more goals were inevitable.

Stephens notched another two to complete his hat trick to make the score 5-0, his third was something very special

when he beat six players in and around the box and rounded the keeper.

Opposition coaches and supporters could only applaud such fantastic skill.

Radcliffe threatened at times and to their credit kept pressing, but the outstanding defensive quartet of dominant skipper Iwan Baker, Matt Cassidy, Richard Dangerfield and Harvey Stockford stood firm to keep their precious clean sheet.

Keeper Scott McMillan handled well in goal, and in the engine room, Matthew Clay and Ashford Thomas dominated, using the ball effectively against a tiring Radcliffe side in the blistering heat.

Kieran Gray and Ryan Clarke played important roles to provide fresh legs to help Llantwit Major secure a famous victory for the south Wales club. DE

Cowbridge bowlers notch two good wins

THE sun shone on Cowbridge Bowling Club, and the ladies had two good wins.

First, at home, they faced Prince of Wales, Porthcawl, in the Rose Bowl, winning 43-20 with a good win by 24-9 on Joan Bradley's rink; also Thelma Jones, Barbara Slade and captain Pat Holdsworth.

The other rink of Margaret Cooper, Diane Lloyd, Sue Flower and skip Shirley Wilkinson won 19-11.

In a friendly match away at Pentrych, they had another good win (23-19) – this was only a triples match because Pentrych only have 12 lady members.

Rink scores: Lynda Wilson, Dorothy Pritchard and skip Pat Davey won 11-10 and Diane Purnell, Phylis Price and skip Pat Holdsworth won

12-9. The men played a Munro Cup game away to Millwood (again) and did better than their match against the same opponents from last Saturday, drawing the game 63-63.

The draw was because of a good win on skip Byron Richards' rink by 22-9; also with Byron were Ron Frayling, Rob Lewis and Len Taylor.

Other rink scores; skip Steve Dickens' rink lost 12-18; Dennis Snelling's rink lost 14-18 and John Trott's rink lost 15-18.

There is no game this Saturday, so the club is having a fun day; with the sun shining and 30 members playing, it will be a fun day!

The ladies will also supply a ham salad lunch.

NJW

TIN POT MAN WINS

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams had plenty to smile about on the way home from Fakenham Racecourse on Sunday.

His Tin Pot Man (Paul Moloney) came in at odds of 8-1 and

40-odd minutes or so later, his Plunkett was successful at the same odds.

Then, later in the afternoon, his Sublime Talent bolted home at odds of 3-1. Plunkett and Sublime Talent were both ridden by Adam Wedge.

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'MONEY DOES NOT BUY STYLE OR TASTE...'

THAT is a well-worn statement in my household, but it has often rung true – particularly as I grew up, noticing nouveau-riche parents with their red braces (usually men) collecting peers from the school gates in their Mercedes.

"Was it really necessary to flash their Filofaxes and mobile phones?" I pondered, a quarter of a century ago.

Things haven't changed much, although Filofaxes seem to have been replaced by dreaded iPhones.

Those who appreciate the finer things in life, and have sufficient funds, have always been drawn to Rolls-Royce. This historic British brand is a byword for quality and those who are fortunate enough to drive one do not need to shout about their suc-

cess.

In fact, more often than not they try to keep quiet for fear of reprisal. As the Ghost four-door saloon glides past a bus stop one rain-drenched bystander shakes his disapproval, which is unfortunate.

If he had just considered what this vehicle actually stands for, he might have reacted differently. The Rolls-Royce is a magnificent example of what Britain can still achieve in terms of engineering and car production.

There is no finer car on the world's roads. In this day and age where most vehicles roll off a production line, the Rolls-Royce is still hand built in Great Britain, at Goodwood, near Chichester to be precise.

All this heritage and craftsmanship realises an asking price of just over £265,000 for the Ghost Extended Wheel Base, a drop in the ocean to highly successful British, American and Chinese business-

men.

In China, due to hugely-inflated taxes on luxury imported vehicles, a Ghost EWB is reported to cost £482,000. Footballer David Beckham has taken delivery of an all-black £250,000 standard wheelbase version in Los Angeles.

My test takes place at a time when there are 170 storm alerts across the UK. As the Ghost makes its way along Britain's sodden roads, the engine is a mere whisper – just like a ghost.

The journey to the National Trust's Petworth House in West Sussex – to see paintings by Turner and Van Dyck – gives the Rolls ample opportunity to show its mettle. Not even continual downpours and excess surface water present a problem to the larger-than-life Roller.

Travelling – at no matter what speed – is thoroughly relaxing for any passenger. If urgency is necessary,

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The Rolls-Royce extended wheel base.

then a push of the accelerator into the deep pile blue carpet will effortlessly power the 6.6-litre V12 from 0 to 60mph in 4.8 seconds and on to 155mph.

Driving from A to B is a grand occasion in the Ghost. Finished in Midnight Sapphire with a striking contrasting silver bonnet it is both opulent and elegant. Interestingly, the first Rolls-Royces had two-tone paintwork.

The extra 170mm (the EWB measures 5,569mm long com-

pared to the 5,399mm of the SWB model) provides rear passengers with a massive quantity of leg room, making it particularly well-suited to those over six feet tall such as entrepreneur Peter Jones. If he hasn't got one already, this comes highly recommended.

The entire cabin is spacious, light and airy, helped by the cream leather upholstery and the electric 'tilt and slide' panorama sunroof.

This modern Rolls

hasn't forgotten its roots – the traditional design has received an injection of modernity with its chunky and purposeful appearance. Both the interior and exterior hark back to Rolls-Royces of old.

A striking characteristic is the old fashioned gear shift – a gear lever is located to the right of the steering wheel – push this downwards for selecting drive mode on the eight-speed box as well as reverse, neutral and park.

This certainly helps to set the elegant Rolls-Royce apart from the crowd. Additionally, the steering wheel harks back to classic cars – reminding me of my late grandfather's 50 year-old Rover 75, which I drove a few times.

Just like that fine car, there is an abundance of chrome, wood and leather but with the addition of satellite navigation and heated front and rear seats. The front centre armrest and the door inserts mirror the

Midnight Sapphire of the exterior.

On start-up, a wooden cover on the dash retracts to reveal an information panel, which displays among other things the vehicle status highlighting any issues such as when a service is due.

When the Rolls is unlocked the magnificent Spirit of Ecstasy automatically rises. It retracts when the car is locked. This can be operated from inside the vehicle, too. Also referred to as Emily, Silver Lady or Flying Lady, this work of art was designed by Charles Sykes.

The result of a secret passion between John Walter Edward Douglas-Scott-Montagu, (second Lord Montagu of Beaulieu after 1905, a pioneer of the automobile movement, and editor of The Car Illustrated magazine from 1902), John's secretary Eleanor Thornton is the model for the emblem.

The push of a button

sees the heavy rear doors close under their own steam. Rear occupants are treated to highly polished wooden picnic tables and multimedia screens, controls for which are mounted on the rear armrest. The boot automatically opens and closes, also at the push of a button.

Safety is paramount and its sophisticated cruise control intelligently keeps the Rolls at a safe distance behind the car in front. It also accelerates and brakes.

All in all, the Rolls-Royce Ghost Extended Wheel Base is as you would expect from a vehicle costing in excess of quarter of a million pounds. It is a splendid achievement to both build and own.

Rolls Royce Ghost extended wheel base: New price: £265,408 OTR.

Top speed: 155mph. 0-60mph: 4.8secs. Economy: circa 20mpg. Road tax: £1,000. Cost to fill up: £120 a tank.

Back to back wins see the Cowbridge Seconds move top

DUE to early season scheduling problems Cowbridge 2nd XI faced not only the usual league fixture on a Saturday, but also a further game on the Sunday.

First off, Cowbridge entertained Briton Ferry Steel; a side who had been relegated from the first division the previous season.

Captain Jonty Webb lost the toss and Cowbridge were invited to bat. Both Chris Ross and Jonty Webb got off to a good start, running well between the wickets and finding the boundary on occasions.

Chris was unluckily bowled for 23, but the score continued to rise with Richard Finnucane giving good support to the captain.

Unfortunately, both Jonty Webb (41) and

Richard (29) went in quick succession, which left Cowbridge at risk of not being able to post a competitive total.

However, the Rowland partnership of Sean and Nick batted sensibly and managed to push Cowbridge to a total of 160 off 50 overs.

Briton Ferry got off to a good start with their innings and the score rose steadily. Despite one wicket for Umar Rafique, Briton Ferry reached 85 off 25 overs and were seemingly on course to secure victory.

A change was needed and with the introduction of Matthew Keating the tide of the match altered significantly.

The Briton Ferry batsmen were simply unable to counter Matthew's accuracy and spin. Wickets began to tumble and with Ian Evans (3 for 7) providing support at the other end Briton

Ferry started to teeter on the brink of defeat.

Despite this, Cowbridge were unable to take the final wicket with Briton Ferry finishing on 140 for 9 off their 50 overs.

This was a terrific fight back by Cowbridge with Matthew Keating bowling superbly to finish with figures of 5 for 33.

From this result Cowbridge knew that if they beat Gorseinon on Sunday then they would be top of the league.

The Gorseinon match was not nearly as exciting as the Briton Ferry game, with Cowbridge totally dominating the visiting Swansea side.

They were simply too strong as Gorseinon limped to only 118 off their 50 overs.

This total was then reached by Cowbridge off 30 overs with only the loss of three wickets – Chris Ross making a well-made 41.

This comprehensive victory for Cowbridge meant that they now sit eight points ahead of the second-place side with hopes of maintaining this position for the rest of the season. JW

BARRY Athletic CC 1st XI celebrated one of its most successful weekends with victory over former Division One outfit Croesyceiliog CC in their first league match of the season, following this up with a very impressive win against current Premier League leaders Mumbles CC in the Welsh Cup.

On Saturday, the 1st XI took to the field against Croesyceiliog with captain Nathan Baker winning the toss on a hard looking wicket – choosing to bat first.

Gavin White (26) and Nathan Baker (45) opened the innings for Barry and produced some excellent scoring shots to get them off to a superb start.

Having looked good for the first 15 overs, Barry quickly found themselves at 64-2 having lost both White and Provis very cheaply to

poor shot selection. Rhett Jones (22) and Baker settled the ship and put on a partnership of 52 before both fell victims to poor shot selection off Kear and Miles respectively, which left Barry on 116-4 after 29 overs.

This brought Ian Gadd to the crease and with his guile and determination he dug deep and produced a magnificent innings to get Barry into a very strong position after 50 overs.

With contributions off A Baker (13) and Paul Murphy (24), Gadd finished on 63 not out and Barry closed the innings on 230-7. Selected figures for Croesyceiliog were T Kear (10-2-27-2) and C Miles (10-0-34-1).

Looking to take quick early wickets, Barry raced through the first 20 overs in no time at all and Croesyceiliog found themselves on 43-2.

John Gee was at his usual best returning figures of 10-4-16-1, which put Barry in an incredibly strong position coming up to the half-way point of the innings.

Peter Hellyar was still doing his bit for Barry Athletic and returned impressive figures of 10-3-21-1 to leave the opposition on 81-4 after 30 overs.

Some resistance came from C Miles (46) and 13-year-old W Davey (31), who put on a fifth wicket partnership of 63, to leave them on 142-6 off 40 overs.

A superb catch from Gavin White brought the

end of Miles' innings off the bowling of Paul Murphy. Steve Jones was entered back into the attack to go in search of the last few wickets as bonus points became essential at that stage.

Jones took the wicket of Davey with a sharp catch off Baker behind the stumps, but full bonus points evaded Barry as Croesyceiliog ended up on 178-8 at the close, leaving Barry with a 52-run win and 19 points. Steve Jones returned with figures of 8-1-32-3.

On Sunday, there were two changes made to the starting XI with Scott Malpas and Andrew Buckland being brought in. Again, Nathan Baker won the toss and elected to bat against the Premier League opposition.

Barry got off to the worst possible start when they lost Gavin White in the second over to a sharp stumping down the leg side off the bowling of Griffiths. Nathan Baker (20) played some excellent cricket shots to kick start the innings but fell again to the bowling of Griffiths to leave Barry at 27-2 off six overs.

Stephen Provis (45) and Rhett Jones (28) continued to play aggressively and quickly put on a 70-run partnership before both wickets fell cheaply to the bowling of Brown in the space of three overs.

Four quick wickets fell in the space of six overs and Barry found themselves struggling

on 116-8 off 28 overs.

Steve Jones joined Andrew Buckland at the crease and started to consolidate the Barry innings and went about ticking the run rate over. They put on 38 for the ninth wicket and took Barry into a comfortable position after 35 overs.

Buckland scored a magnificent 91 not out and really staked a claim for a regular first team place. Gee and Buckland put on 80 runs in the last 10 overs and put Barry into a formidable position at the close (234-9).

Barry went in search of some quick early wickets and they got their reward in the second over when Steve Jones picked up the wicket of Seaton to leave the hosts 3-1.

A Griffiths produced some powerful stroke play to hit a quick fire 56 but fell victim to Gavin

White as he returned superb figures of 9-1-29-3 to reduce the visitors to 98-5 off 24 overs.

The game was falling more and more into Barry's hands and when Paul Murphy took the wicket of Phillips, Mumbles' innings started to collapse and a certain victory became closer. Stephen Provis returned with figures of 9-0-27-3 to mop up the tail and a terrific victory was complete.

On Sunday, the 3rd XI, under the captaincy of Andy Ellis, took to the field for the first time this season away against local rivals Llantwit Major with 10 players due to the unavailability of several players due to Welsh Cup call-ups and school/college exams.

Despite the disadvantage, they saw a narrow victory home.

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GEM sport

A QUESTION THE WRU REVIEW NEEDS TO ASK...

Are the four Welsh regions providing value for money?

AS the curtain slowly descends on an eventful season of curiously mixed fortunes for the enigma that is Welsh rugby, the slightly unreal focus shifts to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff for Saturday's visit by the Barbarians, the 'Red Arrows' display team of world rugby.

Leaving aside the debatable question of whether the fixture should really rank as a capped international – against what is, after all, a disparate group of players cobbled together to form the world's most famous invitation side – it does at least give an extra opportunity for players who are not quite on the frontline grid to impress the Wales management in a competitive environment.

If only as an incentive, therefore, the rationale behind the WRU's decision to award Welsh caps (unlike England who hammered the Barbarians 57-26 on Sunday) has some merit – and surely no-one will begrudge that peerless Welsh servant, Martyn Williams, his last chance to join the exclusive rugby centenarians' club?

Either way, the match will play no real part in the thinking of the Wales camp, which will soon have bigger fish to fry with a daunting three-test tour of Australia coming up next month.

Under head coach Warren Gatland, the season has seen the squad continue its steady progression towards the stated goal of long-term consistency, having followed up last autumn's widely-acclaimed World Cup exploits with a third Grand Slam in the space of seven years.

Inexplicably, though, this progress has certainly not been mirrored in the inconsistent performances of the next tier down – the four Welsh regions. After almost a decade since controversially taking over the mantle of the old top class clubs with the over-hasty introduction of professionalism, they still blow hot and cold, and have singularly failed to make much of an impact in Europe. In fairness, the Ospreys on Sunday went some way to restoring a vestige of

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

Welsh pride with their stupendous 31-30 victory over champions Leinster in the RaboDirect Pro12 league final.

However, this has to be viewed in the context of the four Welsh regions' lacklustre record overall in Europe compared with their Irish counterparts, who regularly reach the final of the Heineken Cup, and this year totally monopolised it in Leinster's stirring showdown with Ulster at Twickenham.

Leinster may have been deprived of a notable 'double', last weekend, but the fact remains that they have now won the coveted Heineken trophy three times in four years. Munster have also won twice, and Ulster once. (Ironically, this success has not been mirrored in the performance of their national team!)

A clutch of French and English clubs, too, usually have little problem in stepping up a gear to meet the bigger international challenge.

The well-ventilated problems on and off the field that afflict cash-strapped Welsh regions in competition with more affluent rivals in a professional era, are undoubtedly real and complex, hence the WRU's decision to conduct a thorough review of the regions' financial structure.

However, the Irish have surely proved that funding issues alone cannot explain why our Welsh regions continually fail to make an impact, not only in Europe, but among their own regional fan base – as evidenced by the all too frequent sight of half empty stadiums, even on the big set-piece occasions.

Sadly, this situation will undoubtedly continue until all four finally grasp the true meaning of regional rugby, disdain divisive cries like 'Cardiff! Cardiff!' and 'Newport! Newport' that still ring out from the terraces – and genuinely shoulder the responsibility that comes with WRU cash, to be truly inclusive of the wider region they claim to represent.

Only then can they start the task of wooing back the wide-

spread legions of alienated fans who presently do not 'connect' with them – and despair of seeing the kind of exciting, winning rugby regularly served up by the Irish regions and others to packed stadiums of the faithful.

If they cannot or will not do so, serious consideration should surely be given, even at this late stage, to redefining the geography of the Welsh regions – perhaps (dare I say it?) through amalgamation – if a fifth region is still deemed impractical.

It could also be a timely opportunity to correct the critical error made when the regions were first divided up and that fervent rugby hotbed, the Valleys, was effectively disenfranchised.

Resentment still smoulders over the premature demise of potentially the strongest (and arguably the most passionately committed) region of them all, the Celtic Warriors.

It should certainly be something for the WRU to ponder in any close-season talks over regional funding, as it seeks an answer to the starkly-yawning gulf between the on-field performance of the national squad and the regions, whose players are pretty much one and the same!

After all, he who pays the piper calls the tune and as keeper of the game's purse, the WRU has a clear duty to ask the question that is on many people's lips: are the Welsh regions providing full value for money?

What do GEM readers think? Can the present four regions get their act together?

WALES TEAM v BARBARIANS

Liam Williams (Scarlets); Harry Robinson (Blues), Andrew Bishop (Ospreys), James Hook (Perpignan), Aled Brew (Dragons); Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Lloyd Williams (Blues); Rhys Gill (Saracens), Matthew Rees (Scarlets) captain, Rhodri Jones (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Ian Evans (Ospreys), Josh Turnbull (Scarlets), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Ryan Jones (Ospreys). Replacements: Richard Hibbard (Ospreys), Paul James (Ospreys), Aaron Shingler (Scarlets), Martyn Williams (Blues), Rhys Webb (Ospreys), Adam Warren (Scarlets), Will Harries (Dragons).

BLUE BULLS EXORCISE THEIR DEMONS IN STYLE

BRIDGEND Blue Bulls claimed their biggest-ever win over Cardiff Demons, scoring 13 tries in the Porthcawl sun for a 72-10 victory.

Bridgend had a good mix of youth and experience in the side and despite never giving up

and fighting until the end, Cardiff could not match their power and pace.

The Demons started the better and two long runs from loose forward Josh Rogerson almost lead to the opening try.

Then, a great Idris Evans break was ended by a crunching Dan Shore tackle.

But despite early pressure they couldn't score and were punished when Lloyd Ryland broke free for a great solo try and Gareth Howells added the extra two for a 6-0 lead.

Moments later the lead was doubled when a Gareth David break sent Jonathon Humphrey over before Jamie Lorimer claimed try number three, Howells added both kicks for an 18-0 lead.

The Demons hit back through player coach Idris Evans but in the final 10 minutes of the half the Bulls ran in three more scores through Gareth David, Lee Smith and Kieron Moore for a 30-4 half time lead.

Within a minute of the second half, Ken Dowling handed off two tacklers to score under the posts before good play from Gethin Davies sent his fellow debutant, 17-year-old Lewis Donnelly over in the corner, Howells converting both.

The Demons then claimed a second deserved try from Liam Carey with Idris Evans converting, but the Bulls continued to dominate.

Dan Smith scored a great solo try before Dowling again went on the charge before offloading to Humphrey, who raced over for his second of the game. Howells again added the kicks.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)

Presidents lunch at BARFC



At the recent Bridgend Athletic RFC presidents lunch, held in the newly-refurbished Athletic function room, BARFC president Wayne Griffiths presented the current Athletic jersey to Mr Graham Hill and Mr Steve Cottingham, directors of long term sponsors Kingfisher Development (Wales) Ltd. Also featured in the photograph (above) is club patron

Mr Gareth Davies who originally set up the sponsorship.

A superb four-course lunch was provided by new Athletic stewardess and caterer Jan Jenkins. Phil Steele hosted the event and ran a successful auction while former Athletic players and current Ospreys, Rhys Webb and Scott Baldwin, took part in a very interesting question and answer session.

Phoenix awards



ABOVE: Natalie O'Shea received the players' player and player of season awards at Pencoed Phoenix's presentation evening. SEE THE FULL REPORT ON PAGE 29.

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GLAMORGAN GEM SPORTS EXTRA

Vale Schools win the DC Thomas cup final!

LAST Saturday at the Millennium Stadium saw the Vale District Schools take on Pontypool District Schools in what turned out to be an excellent display of rugby.

Conditions were perfect, sunshine filled the stadium and the Vale Schools, in their new commemorative strip, looked sharp as they kicked off at the start of the game.

Captain Tomos Jac with Jack Little, Ellis Smith and Cai Lloyd did some great work in recovering the ball for Ruben Williams to burst through and with the help of Iestyn Fenn, Luke Connor and Ben Jones almost drove over in the corner in the first few seconds of the game.

Great Pontypool defence secured the ball which resulted in a kick downfield only for Iwan Hadfield to gather and set up an attack with Aron Arthur and Barney Langton showing excellent pace to set up another try scoring opportunity.

These frenetic few minutes settled with the Vale on top but Pontypool, who were considered favourites by some before the game, kept the ball tight with some driving mauls and broke into the Vale's 22.

Against the run of play Pooler forwards showed their strength and drove over near the corner to open the scoring with an unconverted try.

From the kick off Pontypool began to show some form and recovered well and drove into the heart of the Vale defensive line. Crunching tackles from Iwan Hadfield, Aron Arthur, Evan Thomas, Barney Langton and Jamie Howells showed there was no way through.

With the Vale forwards now gaining the ball at the breakdown and with Iwan Williams snipping around the fringes the Vale were on the attack again.

Michael Bosley switched play across the field and with great offloading the Vale broke into the defending

sides 22. From a resulting breakdown Tomas Jac and Ben Jones fed Ruben Williams who this time took several defenders over the try line with him for the Vale's first score, converted by Iwan Williams.

The Vale went into the half 7-5 ahead. Evan Thomas at fly half was now orchestrating matters and one such move resulted in Barney Langton crashing through tackles and popping the ball off to Michael Bosley, who had drifted into midfield. He then cut inside the drifting defence and, tackled, off loaded to supporting player Evan Thomas who ran in to double the Vale's try count.

Iwan Williams, on top kicking form, slotted another difficult conversion to increase their lead to 14-5.

The Gwent side kicked long from the restart. Desperate to turn the game in their favour they threw everything into attack. Courageous defence by Jamie Howells and Ben Jones held up an early try scoring opportunity.

Pontypool began to

put on the pressure but from a resulting scrum just outside the Vale's 5 meter line Evan Thomas kicked out of defence. Michael Bosley raced up and put pressure on the opposing winger who fumbled the ball and with a great pick up he sprinted into the Pooler half and evaded the fast approaching cover defence, to finish a 70 meter run to score under the posts.

With victory in their sights and only minutes to go and in control, substitutes Will Parsons, Jack Dixon and Lewis Hawk continued some fine ball handling to close off the game, or so we thought.

Pontypool were playing to different script and began some powerful attacks. Lewis Bumford and Ben Batten scuppered one sniping break for the Pooler scrum half. Substitutes James Rees and Dan Hicks put in some text book tackles as soon as they ran on to the pitch.

However Pontypool forwards were rampaging and went over. With a converted try narrowed the score.

CENTURIONS MAKE SWALEC PROGRESS

SULLY Centurions travelled to Port Talbot on Sunday to play in the Swalec Premier League 20/20 Festival.

First up was Bridgend, who had lost to the hosts in their opening match. Sully's opening pair of Ryan Sylvester and Adam Shanthy put on 60 for the first wicket, averaging 10 an over, before Ryan was out for 37.

Lloyd Smith continued his great batting form as he and Shanthy reached 131 before the former Glamorgan player was dismissed, stumped for 28. Lloyd was eventually bowled for a very good 64, which left time for a couple of quickfire innings from Rowe and Ready, who hit 17 and 18 respectively, as Centurions ended on an impressive 181 for 5.

Former Sully man David Goodway, captaining for the day, opened the Bridgend batting along with Baker and he top scored with 36, eventually falling to a great catch on the boundary from Lloyd Smith, off the bowling of Tom Evison. Sully's bowlers always had the upper hand and the runs were hard to come by for the young Bridgend side.

Contributions of 26 from Davies, 23 from Pierce and 17 from Dalton helped get the score to 120 at the end, but the target was never in reach. Two wickets each for Lloyd Bruce and Tom Evison, along with tight bowling from the rest, ensure that Centurions won by a margin of 61 runs.

Sully 181/5 Bridgend 120/4.

The second match was

a different affair altogether, with Centurions having to dig deep to secure a victory that looked in doubt for some time.

Once again batting first, Sully's opening pair were pegged back by some very good bowling from the Port Talbot bowlers. Ryan Sylvester went for 14 and Adam Shanthy had only reached 4 before being out with the score on 29 for 2.

Skipper Lloyd Smith hit 24 and Richard Ready 8 to leave the score on 77 for 4 with just 6 overs remaining. However, a great knock of 68 not out by Daniel Rowe, with good support from Charlie Lowen (16) gave Sully hope, eventually reaching 148 with no further loss after the 20 overs.

After the early dismissal of Griffiths by Jamie Sylvester, with the score on just 17, Port Talbot settled in to take the game to the Centurions attack and a

second wicket partnership of 51 between Dan Cherry and Ian Thomas put the hosts firmly in the driving seat. At the halfway stage the score stood at 85 for 2 and the Pirates fans were in good voice.

But things changed dramatically as first Richard Ready removed the dangerous Ian Thomas for 38 and Ryan Sylvester got Cherry for 18. This paved the way for a remarkable spell from Tom Evison, grabbing 3 for 16, including a fantastic caught and bowled to dismiss Cox.

Port Talbot fell more and more behind the required run rate and in the end could only reach 126 before the close. This means that Sully will progress to the finals day at the Swalec Stadium in July. No doubt the Centurions' fans will be there in good numbers (and in good voice) on the day.

Sully 148 for 4 Port Talbot 126 for 9. MF

BARRY VETERANS TAKE ON THE MIGHT OF EUROPE!

AFTER a two year absence, Barry Vets returned to their French friends at Beauvais for their annual invitational Tournoi.

With quite a few new faces coupled with the experienced Vets of Chucas, Baker and Delaney this boded for a great spectacle of flowing rugby.

As always the hosts provided their normal welcoming Friday hospitality, resulting in three of the older Vets missing the first match and with the seven game format of 12 minute games being explained to the fresh faces, Barry had to strengthen their squad. To this end we were very grateful for the camaraderie of several local players donating the Barry shirt.

We kicked off the Tournoi against a Breigny team and played up the slope. Special mention goes to No 10 Phillips for having a great game and making a decisive break deep into their 22, only for a misplaced place to prevent Barry scoring. The game was drawn with neither side managing to break down the others defence in a fast flowing game.

The next two games were played against Clermont and eventual winners Blayes with Barry competing well against both.

The hosts then slipped in lunch to prevent Barry gaining a stranglehold on the Tournoi. Pomme frites and some sausage didn't help preparations with water being replaced by some nutritional 'bieres' by some.

Barry dusted themselves off for the assault on their remaining four opponents. The first game was against the only other side suffer-

ing more than Barry, Tillycoultry from Scotland.

This game will be long remembered for the brilliant Barbarian try that we scored to win the match.

After weathering the expectant Scottish attacks, Barry turned over ball. Special mention goes to No 8 David, the youthful Lundy and Mephah for their counter rucking skills.

The ball was quickly transferred to McTavish who set off interlinking passes with Lee before the ball effortlessly came to the Robinson who duly put the ball down over the whitewash.

The next game was played back to back against a visiting Triari side from Rome. With a quick change around with Phillips aggravating an old injury, Barry had a new look No 10, McTavish.

His break out at speed from our 22 up the pitch to an all most certain scoring opportunity still brings a smile to the author. With Moffat on his shoulder, McTavish had a rush of blood and passed superbly off his left side to the only Triari player near him, a very relieved looking winger.

After a mix up in the Barry backs we were penalised and for once Jones couldn't steal ball and despite sound defence the Italians started dreaming of beating the Welsh side after being out of the game.

As normally happens when a side is so much on top and doesn't capitalise on their possession, the Italians utilised a break down in our Anglo/French backs and scored late on.

How Barry failed to score against a Charleroi side from Belgium still beggars belief, but Barry played magnificently.

Mention must go to the Charleroi defence which was superb. The ever youthful Chucas playing full back was a sight for all to see especially trying to run away from a centre half his age!

The last game quite rightly was against the hosts Beauvais. With the author's record of three wins and only one loss against them, the prospects were good.

When 'Yannick' equalised an early Beauvais score, Barry went for the win. Jones appeared to have scored and after a doubtful refereeing decision the hosts were given a scrum.

This was passive and the ball was fed out to the winger with Robinson unable to match his speed. Barry went down to a late brace of tries.

Team: N Lundy, C Chucas, P Haley, S Mephah, A Moffat (captain), L Jones, M Baker, L David, P Griffiths, M Phillips, J McTavish, N Boffy, D Robinson, B Mills. Manager P Delaney.

Scrummies Pat Jones, Carrie Baker, Michelle David and Sharon Haley should be thanked for the refreshments, especially Pat on the return leg.

The final tally of won five lost two will be remembered by the new Vets who will surely return many times more. Barry returned home with a trophy, not as winners but as competitors in a fantastic weekend of 'Entente Cordial'.

Special mention to out French amis Yannick, Benoit, Kristian, Thomas and Javier during the day who helped bolster the Welsh side. Saturday night's entertainment was as usual superb, with many staying late; congratulations to all.

ACM

The Cadoxton bowlers suffer Munro Cup loss

SULLY was the venue for this Munro Cup match against Cadoxton, which resulted in a home win.

Howard Craven had Carl Best as his opposing skip and came back from 5-0 down to lead 9-8 after eleven ends. The remaining 7 ends all went in favour of the visitors, to claim a convincing win. However, that was the only success for Cadoxton with the three rinks losing by a total of 22 shots.

Scores: B Knight, G Solomon, J Sugden, G Brown 11 - 17 A David, S Dibble, D Edwards, J Best; S Clements, M Mathews, G Davies, H Craven 21 - 8 A Rees, B Curtis, D Hitchcock, C Best; J Stacey, H Hellyar, R Cole, D Kuhnell 10 - 22 G Pryer, C Michael, H Thomas, B Griffiths; G Powell, D Fanning, J Stewart, L Davies 14 - 18 K Lewis, A Thomas, H Jones, I Patterson.

Final score: 56 - 65.

CADOXTON VS SULLY - FRIENDLY

The Saturday game was the third visit to Sully, in a week. This time it was a friendly fixture prior to the league starting next week.

Howard Craven had another substantial win on his rink. Kelvin

Chedzoy returned to the team, after illness, to produce another good result with his four. These successes were enough to win the game overall, despite defeats for the other two rinks.

Scores: P Ellis, W Vaughan, J Crout, H Craven 19 - 9; T Bishop, I Dunbar, D Brook, G Brown 15 - 20; L Adams, L Cundliffe, D Kuhnell 11 - 22; G Solomon, H Hellyar, L Davies, K Chedzoy 24 - 13.

Final score: 69 - 64.

CADOXTON 'A' V ROMILLY - FRIENDLY
The 'A' side also had a friendly match, at home, against a strong side from Romilly who took command from the start and triumphed on all rinks.

Scores: L Tanner, J Stewart, G Davies 14 - 22 T Bloomfield, C Geen, G Cogbill, B Foscolo; G Powell, K Tanner, M Curtis, R Harding 12 - 22 M Gershenon, M Doyle, F Phillips, M Newman; L Tanner, R Doble, B Knight, S Clarke 9 - 22 J Coles, D Shackell, R Hewitson, A Bryan; D Collard, L Little, J Sugden, G Garland 9 - 25 P Gershenon, J Jones, G Eastment, D Wright.

Final score: 44 - 91

Under-12s close season with a fine display

LLANTWIT Major under-12s played their last game of the season against Whitchurch.

The first was by Oliver Rowbottom, picking up from the back of the scrum and going down an open blind side to cross under the posts, which Lewis Brown converted.

The second try came from some loose play when the ball was bouncing around the

floor, and Morgan Long picked up before passing to Steffan Bugler to score; the conversion was missed.

The third was scored by Joe Boxsall, which started with some strong play by the forwards, who controlled their Whitchurch counterparts all day, and the ball was let go to the backs to pass the ball all the way across the line for Joe to score in the corner.

Number four was scored by Lewis Brown, who stepped inside the defence to score under the posts; Lewis converted. The final try of the half was scored by Lloyd Richards; the conversion was missed.

In the second half, Llantwit scored again through Stefan Bugler crossing for his second, which saw the conversion missed.

Whitchurch scored but Llantwit got their final try when Ben Burrows crossed after the forwards got him within five metres of the line, and he picked up from the base and powered his way over.

Whitchurch scored their second try, but the conversion was missed.

Final score: 39-12 to Llantwit.

The coaching staff would like to thank all the boys and their parents for their support this season, and hopefully we can move on to better things next year.

DK

MP